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247 DAYS

BEFORE THE CW PROGRAM EXPIRES ON DEC. 31, 2014

POLL RESULTS

Should elected public officials in the CNMI be required to undergo drug testing?

Yes	215
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Sunday, February 3, 2013

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LOCAL

Mariana Resort & Spa turns back the hands of time with a "far out" 36th anniversary party.

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The 33rd Annual Flame Tree Festival draws thousands of residents and guests.

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AS PART OF SAIPAN APPLICATIONS' REVIEW

Macau casino experts to be hired

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Saturday that the Lottery Commission is considering hiring a Macau-based casino investigator and gaming consultant to help review the applications of two investor groups wanting to exclusively develop a casino resort on Saipan. Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. and Best Sunshine International Ltd. have only a week from today or up to May 5 to deposit $30 million each in an escrow to be further considered for a grant of an exclusive casino license.

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Fitial back on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some 14 months since resigning and leaving the CNMI, former governor Benigno R. Fitial came back to Saipan on Saturday morning, four days before his April 30 court appearance to face the charges filed against him.

» Inos: Let judicial process take its course

The CNMI Division of Customs, the Commonwealth Ports Authority and other sources separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* within an hour or so of the

See FITIAL on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the MHS Aeronautical Dolphins, along with their teacher-coach John Raulerson, gather for a group photo with Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, left, and RWDC state coordinator Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang, right, after the awarding rites Friday. The Aeronautical Dolphins' "The HawkEye 670" was adjudged the Pacific State Real World Design Challenge champion and will advance to Washington, D.C. for the national competition this year.

Aeronautical Dolphins is Pacific RWDC champion

» Seven-member team to defend national title in DC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School's Aeronautical Dolphins was once again the big winner in this year's Real World Design Challenge.

The seven-member team was hailed champion in both the state and Pacific competitions, earning the privilege to fly to Washington, D.C. and compete with teams from the rest of the nation.

The Aeronautical Dolphins was the 2013 RWDC national champion and will defend the title in November.

This year's group is composed of Jill Ann Arada, the team's project manager; Jessica Bigueras, marketing specialist; Alam Mobtasim, design engineer; Jun Young Kim, simulations engineer; Regina Go, systems and test engineer; Roselie Agulto, mission planner; and Esther Choi, the team's mathematician.

The RWDC competition's challenge this year was to design and implement an unmanned aircraft system, or UAS, to support precision agriculture, specifically the monitoring and assessment of crop conditions to achieve increased yield. The teams were asked to employ a systems engineering design and integration approach to identify, compare, analyze, demonstrate, and defend the most appropriate component combinations,

See CHAMPION on Page 4

March visitor arrivals in CNMI flat at 40.6K. PAGE 3
Shirley Ann T. Sablan is Businesswoman of the Year. PAGE 5

Local

San Nicolas: Romero's voice was heard by everybody

"The voice of Emie Romero was heard not just by the jurors but by everybody in this community," said Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, referring to murdered bartender Emerita Romero's chilling 911 call where she was heard screaming and begging for her life at the hands of her killer, Joseph A. Crisostomo.

To put it in perspective, San Nicolas said that Romero's case went through three Department of Public Safety commissioners, two attorneys general, two governors, three chief prosecutors, and so many people involved in the investigation and eventual prosecution of Crisostomo.

"It just goes to show that through a joint collaborative effort of all our law enforcement agencies and offices, we can come together and help justice to be served and to allow the victim's voice to be heard," he said Friday.

Meantime, Romero's siblings, Estelita and Eduardo Relata, wrote a letter over the weekend on behalf of their family to thank everyone "who in one way or another worked zealously to bring justice."

"My sister Emie's murder caused great suffering for us and your efforts and service gave us hope and healing," Estelita Relata said.

A Superior Court jury on Thursday unanimously found the 40-year-old Crisostomo guilty of kidnapping, raping, killing, and robbing Romero, a mother of two.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who presided over the trial and decided the misdemeanor charges, found him guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Crisostomo will be sentenced on May 28, 2014.

San Nicolas thanked the Romero family, her siblings, Romero's two children, and everybody related to Romero "for their patience, their strength, for the courage, and inspiration."

"They inspired all of us in law enforcement to do what we did. So I give all the credit, the praise to the families of Emie Romero. And I ask everybody to keep her memory, keep her in their prayers," he said.

San Nicolas also thanked Camacho for "being very fair and firm" and the jurors for considering all the evidence and coming out with a just verdict.

"We believe justice was served," he said.

"I do want to say that I very much appreciate the help of special agent Haejun Park from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and our brothers and sisters at the FBI," he said, disclosing that the FBI shouldered much of the expenses in obtaining and testing pieces of evidence.

San Nicolas also thanked all the OAG staff, law enforcement and the Philippine Consulate and "all in one way or another help them prepare for the trial."

"This was for us, a little over two years of work. But for the victim's family, family of Ms. Romero, this has been a trying process for them. The credit goes to her brother, her sister, the family members who day in and out always kept us reminded of the significance of this case and how we should always be vigilant in upholding… we're talking about the rule of law, this is exactly it, upholding the rule of law," he said.

Romero, a bartender at Godfather's Bar, was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, FBI special agents Park and Joseph Auther found her body in a small room at an abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis. Autopsy showed she was beaten up and strangled to death with a pair of leggings. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Emie's kin says thanks

On behalf of my family in the Philippines—my mother and family, Emie's two daughters, Erika and Francine, and relatives—my brother Ed and I would like to thank each and everyone of you who in one way or another worked zealously to bring justice. My sister Emie's murder caused great suffering for us and your efforts and service gave us hope and healing. My brother and I especially thank:

- The Attorney General's Office: Attorney General Patrick San Nicolas, Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty, Assistant Attorney General Margo Brown Badawy, and former chief prosecutor Shelli Neil;
- The staunch FBI agents: Mr. Haejun Park and Joseph Auther;
- Department of Public Safety: Officer Simon Manacop and other investigators;
- Judge Joseph Camacho and all members of the jury;
- All the witnesses for the prosecution that strengthened the case;
- U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance's Dr. Celia Lamkin;
- The CNMI government;
- Victim advocates Dixie Inos, The Good Shepherd sisters c/o Sr. Stella Mangona, Lauri Ogumoro, and Guma Esperansa shelter;
- Compassionate Friends group and Nutese staff;
- Mr. Ron Biggers, Scott Dottino, and all of Godfather's staff who worked with my sister Emie; and
- To all of my sister's friends.

May God bless all of you who walked with us in our journey of suffering but gave the support and encouragement we needed.

From the bottom of our hearts, *"salamat po."* Justice has been served. Our hearts still ache because we lost our sister Emie. We might not be able to bring her life back but you all gave us hope and healing.

ESTELITA RELATA
EDONG RELATA

Early Signs of Autism
Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social
Children with autism may:
- Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- Not babble and coo by 12 months
- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact
- Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral
Children with autism may:
- Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- Have frequent temper tantrums
- Be overly active
- Purposely hurt themselves
- Repeat words or actions over and over
- Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas
Children with autism often:
- Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- Lack fear in dangerous situations
- Have an intense need for routines
- Have learning difficulties
- Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at **664-4830** for a free developmental screening.

Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.

Early action is the key!

Big Steps for Little Feet · CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

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March visitor arrivals in CNMI flat at 40.6K

March 2014 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) were essentially the same as March 2013. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 40,666 visitors in March 2014 compared to 40,613 in March 2013.

Arrivals from Japan were the greatest of any source market for the NMI during the month of March, but dropped 26 percent versus 2013 to 13,396 visitors. A 22.4 percent decline in air seat supply from Narita impacted the Japanese market heavily, as Delta temporarily suspended its second night flight from Narita. Weakness in March was also attributed to consumer sentiment toward the hike of Japan consumption tax from 5 percent to 8 percent effective from April 1, as well as the shift in timing of the Saipan Marathon from March to April as the marathon attracted 554 Japanese runners to the NMI last year in March together with friends and family, and this benefit will now be felt in April instead of March.

Arrivals from Korea rose 14 percent in March to 10,732 visitors. Dynamic Airways temporarily suspended flights from Seoul to Saipan beginning March 1, and will operate select flights during Korean Golden Week on April 30, May 2 and May 3. Dynamic Airways has not yet decided if their Seoul flights will be re-launched or if new flights will be launched from Busan instead.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China jumped 33 percent to 12,359 visitors, making China the second largest source market of tourists for the NMI in March. Century Tours suspended Dynamic flights from Hangzhou and Tianjin in March, but additional lift is projected to come on-line from the North China market in the coming months. Travel to the NMI grew much faster year-on-year than to other competing destinations and Saipan was recognized as one of the Top 10 Best Island Tourist Destinations of the Year by Ctrip, China's leading online travel portal.

Arrivals from Russia declined 5 percent to 1,602 visitors in March. This drop comes with the rapidly increasing political and economic instability in Russia. Key Russian tour operators are confirming that Russian tourists have begun canceling trips to U.S. territories due to unstable Russian-U.S. relations. Secondly, the value of the U.S. dollar has suddenly increased by over 10 percent against the ruble since January, with tour prices to the CNMI rising by 20 percent compared to 2013 due to rising hotel room rates and the impact of the weak Russian currency. The MVA is carefully monitoring the rapidly evolving situation in the Russia market and continues to work closely with key partners such as AVIACHARTERS and Asiana Airlines to minimize the impact on travel from Russia to the NMI. ***(MVA)***

US soldier is laid to rest nearly 70 years after WWII death on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A little over a year after his remains were found by a visiting non-profit Japanese group on Saipan and nearly 70 years after he was declared missing in action during World War II, a U.S. soldier was finally laid to rest in his hometown of Paducah, Kentucky on Friday. That would have been his 94th birthday.

U.S. Army Sgt. William Carneal was declared missing in action on July 7, 1944, while fighting on Saipan.

In March 2013, a non-profit Japanese recovery organization called Kuentai Group arrived on Saipan to retrieve the remains of Japanese soldiers and civilians who perished during the war. In the process, they also discovered the remains believed to be that of an American soldier and immediately contacted the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC.

Carneal was found still with his dog tags, 1939 class ring from Paducah's Health High School, and American coins.

He was believed to have enlisted in October 1941, reported missing in action in 1944, and declared dead in 1945.

The *Paducah Sun* and WCSC-TV reported during the weekend that Carneal's remains arrived April 22 morning at Nashville International Airport and driven to his home. The reports stated that all of Kentucky lowered the flag at half-staff on Friday for Carneal.

The members of the Japanese Kuentai Group who found Carneal's remains on Saipan were among those who attended Friday's funeral, the *Paducah Sun* and WCSC-TV reported.

Carneal's remains, which in April 2013 were still not officially identified, were among the remains that received full military honors representing losses associated with World War II and the Vietnam War from recent JPAC recovery activities on Saipan and in Vietnam and Laos.

JPAC said there are approximately 1,400 service members that remain unaccounted for from World War II in the "Marianas Islands" region and more than 30 are believed to be on Saipan.

The Battle of Saipan, a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, was fought from June 15 to July 9, 1944.

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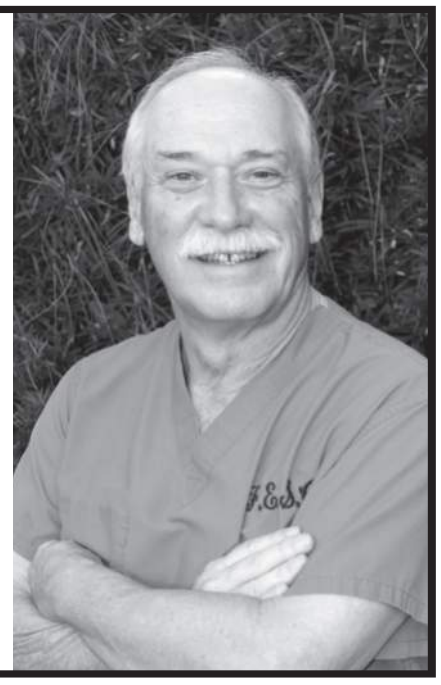

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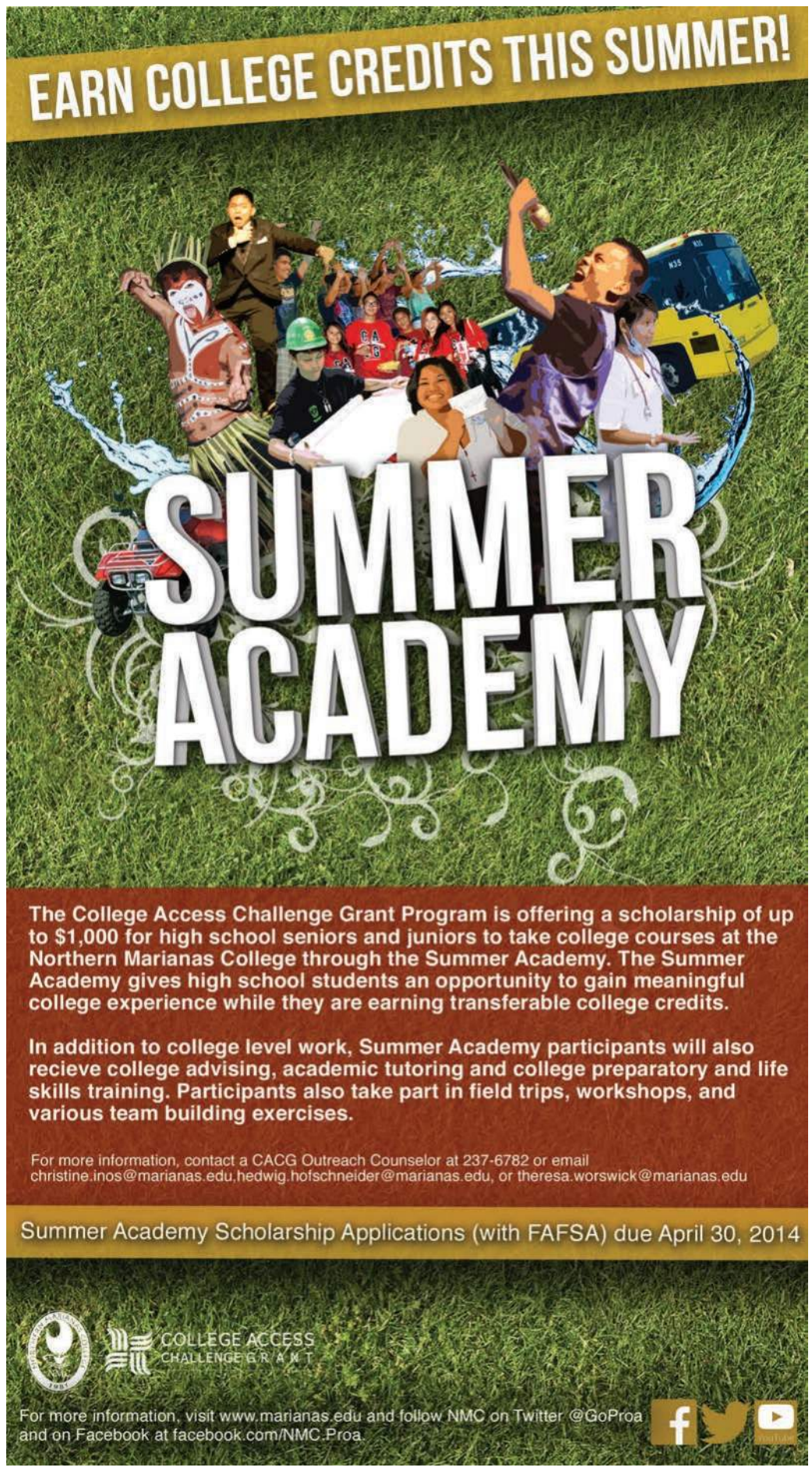
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Over 150 defaulted homestead lots on Saipan to be redistributed

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio said that over 150 defaulted homestead lots on Saipan will be redistributed through lottery process, even as over 3,000 families remain on the waiting list for residential homesteads.

"We are identifying the number of people who are eligible [to be included in the lottery] pursuant to their date of application, status of their application," Tenorio said.

At the same time, DPL is reviewing whether the homestead lots that they will be redistributing are really in default.

"We don't want to take back property that they have already cleaned and spent money on and then because of some issues, financial or otherwise, they had to give it up. We're going to give them all the administrative remedies," Tenorio said.

There is currently no plan to develop additional homestead subdivisions on Saipan, Tenorio said, although previous administrations considered the Marpi area, which will again be cleaned up of unexploded World War II ordnance with the help of federal funds.

In February, government officials led by Gov. Eloy S. Inos broke ground on the future site of a 189-lot village homestead in West San Jose, Tinian, some 19 years since the project started. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Fundraising for SHEFA financial awards eyed

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is anticipating that the legalization of casino and online gaming on Saipan will have a negative impact on its revenues.

In preparation for the potential adverse effect on SHEFA's financial awards, the board is looking at launching fundraisers to ensure that Saipan students will continue to be provided financial assistance for their college studies.

SHEFA provides financial grants through grant-in-aid, field of study, and incentive programs. Each fiscal year, the Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropriates some $3 million for these three scholarship awards, both for on-island and off-island scholars. All these monies, since 2004, are sourced from poker fees and license fees collected by the government.

According to SHEFA board chair Josephine Sablan, fundraisers and the creation of a foundation to raise funds for SHEFA are authorized under its rules and regulations.

"In order for us to continue to support the financial assistance to our scholars, we have to think of other ways because currently, we cannot just depend on poker fees. We just don't know—with all these casinos and online gaming—how many poker machines will be left in the future," Sablan said after Thursday's board meeting.

Unlike SHEFA, Sablan said that casinos and online gaming laws do not include assistance to scholarship programs.

Sablan said the board is scheduled to continue discussion on the fundraisers for SHEFA and may create a special committee that will spearhead it. She disclosed that board member John Tenorio has expressed interest to head the panel.

Target proceeds for the planned fundraisers would go to financial awards account, according to Sablan, who added that financial award amounts for the fall 2014 semester will be unchanged.

Saipan Tribune learned that despite yearly appropriation of $3 million for financial awards, there were instances that the full amount was not provided to the program as a result of either a shortfall in government collection or awards for the fiscal year didn't reach $3 million.

"It depends on how much we spent [for the fiscal year]," explained Sablan, adding that if there's a certain leftover/surplus in a fiscal year budget, the SNILD may go ahead and have it carried over to SHEFA's funding for next fiscal year or allocate it to some other projects.

From 2004 through 2013, the government has invested $22.942 million to assist local students in pursuing their degrees here and abroad, according to SHEFA administrator Merissa Rasa. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

former governor's arrival at the Saipan International Airport around 8am aboard a Cape Air flight on Saturday. Fitial flew in from the Philippines via Guam.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview late Saturday morning, said it's good that Fitial came back to voluntarily appear in court. He said the public should let the judicial process "take its course."

Inos also wishes Fitial good health. The two have known each other since they were young.

"…The key is for him to be here, and he went through that, he's here," Inos said in an interview at the opening ceremonies of the 33rd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe on Saturday morning.

Fitial is facing seven criminal charges in connection with the alleged shielding of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012. The charges were filed in March 2013. On Feb. 19 this year, Buckingham was found guilty of all public corruption charges except one and was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

Except for Fitial, other defendants in the case had had their court appearances. April 30 will be Fitial's initial court appearance.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas said that customs personnel at the airport were aware that the arrest warrant against Fitial had already been quashed so there was no reason for him to be held at the airport.

"The former governor was not held at the airport. He was accorded respect as a former governor and just like any other passenger. There was nothing unusual when he arrived at the airport," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said Customs, knowing that Fitial's April 30 voluntary appearance in Superior Court was nearing, checked again with the Office of the Public Auditor on Thursday last week whether the arrest warrant was indeed quashed and confirmed once again that it was quashed.

CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama separately said "Customs came by Central and asked if the arrest warrant was active."

"We called DPS [Department of Public Safety] and we're advised that it was quashed so there was no reason to hold him," she said.

Inos said a protocol was established by the Office of the Attorney General on matters concerning arrest warrants.

"When the warrant was quashed, then all the affected bodies should have been notified," he said.

Since his arrival on Saturday, Fitial has reportedly been visited by relatives and friends at his residence in Gualo Rai and has also been meeting with them in their homes.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said yesterday Fitial did the right thing by coming back voluntarily.

"He is innocent until proven guilty and he should be given due process. We should all allow the justice system to take its course," said Leon Guerrero, a former police officer.

Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, days after the House of Representatives impeached him on charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. He resigned as governor a few days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Fitial left the CNMI on Feb. 21, 2013.

About a year later or on March 17, 2014, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman directed Fitial to voluntarily appear in Superior Court on April 30, 2014, at 1:30pm.

Wiseman said that if the former governor fails to appear at the April 30 hearing due to his ongoing medical treatment, he will be required to justify any absences on that date.

Fitial, in an earlier declaration he filed through his counsel, Stephen Nutting, said he wants to return to the CNMI as he has no desire to become a fugitive.

When Fitial resigned, his then lieutenant governor, Inos, automatically became the governor. Then Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider became the lieutenant governor under the rules of succession.

Inos is now running for governor in the November 2014 race, with Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as his running mate under the Republican Party.

When asked whether Fitial could seek any office in the November elections, Inos said the former governor can as Fitial has not been convicted of anything.

But when asked whether he thinks Fitial will run for governor again, Inos said he doesn't think so.

"I don't see governor Fitial throwing his hat in the ring to run for public office. I'm sure his first order of business is to try to get this situation behind him…" Inos said, adding that Fitial also has to take care of his health.

Fitial, according to Nutting, has a neurological condition. Fitial stayed in the Philippines, his wife Josie's home country where he had also been seeking medical treatment.

CASINO

From Page 1

Funding to hire the independent investigator and gaming consultant will come from the $2 million in nonrefundable application fee that the two applicants paid the CNMI government.

Inos said they are hiring these experts from Macau, where the casino industry is much different from the ones in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, the only operating casino in the CNMI, like many casinos in Macau, targets the Chinese market.

The Lottery Commission, meanwhile, has started individually reviewing the applications submitted, ahead of a formal commission meeting later this week.

Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar, who is also the Commerce secretary, said there will be an advance public notice about the date and time of the panel's first meeting to discuss the casino applications and on the meeting day itself, the public may be able to attend a portion of the meeting before an executive session is called.

So far, only Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. has a license to do business in the CNMI. It was incorporated on Saipan.

Marianas Stars Entertainment, an indirect subsidiary of Chinese Strategic Holdings Ltd., plans to build a 2,000-room hotel including dining and shopping facilities in addition to developing a casino. Only 25 percent of Marianas Stars is owned by Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., the new owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Owning 75 percent of Marianas Stars is Famous Treasure Ltd., a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese Strategic Holdings Ltd.

Hong Kong-based Best Sunshine International Ltd., meanwhile, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Natural Foods Holdings Ltd. It has not been incorporated in the CNMI nor has it applied for a business license in the CNMI as of yesterday. It proposes to change its name to "Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd." to provide a better identification for the company as it further diversifies its business, including adding eco-tourism and gaming to its portfolio.

Whichever of the two investor groups is granted a license to exclusively operate a casino on Saipan is required to build a hotel-resort with at least 2,000 rooms and an initial investment of $2 billion.

CHAMPION

From Page 1

subsystem designs, operational methods, and business case to support the challenge scenario.

The Aeronautical Dolphins' 77-page entry this year is dubbed "The HawkEye 670," a small, unmanned aerial system.

According to veteran team member Arada, the group worked six months to ensure that what they will turn in is a professional-type design notebook. In her three years in the competition, she is confident of the CNMI chances in keeping the national title for another year.

"With the experience I gained and shared with other team members, we will come out stronger. I can say the team is more organized, ideas are more complex, and our design book is professional," said Arada, who is also a recipient of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship this year.

She will pursue biomedical engineering at Indian Institute of Technology after high school.

Fellow veteran member Jessica Bigueras expects the team to once again bring honor to the islands. "We're more knowledgeable about our design and we will do our best to bring back our name on the top," she said.

This year marks the third participation of the CNMI in the national RWDC competition. It was able to bag the championship trophy on its second year, besting entries of 50 other states in the nation. Since then, the CNMI team had been gaining the respect of other teams in the mainland, which now considers the island group as one of their biggest competitors.

For Aeronautical Dolphins coach John Raulerson, "The HawkEye 670" is truly a by-product of the students' hard work whom he credited for waking up as early as 3am in the last six months just to take part in webinars. "We just put a lot of time and efforts on this and we expect to win!" he told *Saipan Tribune.*

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera was equally proud of the Aeronautical Dolphins' latest achievements. Cabrera said the countless hours put in by the team are a testament to their hard work. She promised the school's full support in every step of the way.

On Friday, the champion team was awarded a plaque of recognition by Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan in recognizing the team's three years of achievements in the RWDC competitions.

Other winners

According to Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang, M.Ed, RWDC state coordinator and STEM fair coordinator, the winners in the recently concluded State RWDC competition are: MHS' Aeronautical Dolphins, first place; Mount Carmel School's KON-52, second place; MCS' Aviator Knights, third place; MCS' Agri-Drone Knights, fourth place; and MCS' Knightfly, fifth place.

For the Pacific RWDC, the second and third placers are Guam Islanders from John F. Kennedy High School and Mount Carmel School's KON-52 respectively.

Champions of the national competition will each receive $50,000 college scholarships. Arada and Bigueras, who were members of the winning 2013 National RWDC, already have $50,000 scholarships and will be competing once again.

One of the judges, Ms. Del Rosario, had this to say: "This is my third year of judging the annual Real World Design Challenge. Each year is a whole new experience with grand enthusiasm for me as I read through the notebooks of our future scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and technology experts. I applaud the participants and RWDC for continuously promoting the importance of STEM education and programs within our schools."

Shirley Ann T. Sablan is named Businesswoman of the Year

TAMUNING, Guam—Shirley Ann T. Sablan was named the 2014 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year at the ninth annual Maga'haga Awards Gala on April 26.

Sablan is the executive vice president and general manager of Pacific Insurance Underwriters Inc. on Saipan. She oversees overall operations, which include underwriting, claims, accounting, marketing, and human resources. She received her bachelor's degree at Chaminade University. She graduated from Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii with a master in Business Administration with concentration in marketing and human resources management. Sablan's community involvements including serving as the vice president of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association; community events director of Stellar Marianas; and chairwoman for legislative and programs of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association, among others.

Sablan was selected from 10 nominees in this year's annual award program, which recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community. She is featured in a commissioned photo study on the cover of *Guam Business Magazine* May-June issue, which was released at the gala.

Sablan

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. Since 2006, the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year program has awarded a total of $152,555 in scholarships to deserving students in the community. ***(PR)***

'Make a realistic payment plan in 15 days or schools will be disconnected'

Utility services at public schools on Saipan are being threatened with disconnection if the Public School System fails to come up with a payment plan within the next 15 days.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors made this clear in its latest letter to the Board of Education, while appealing to the board to intervene in the matter.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan, in a letter dated April 24 to BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero, disclosed that the total past due balance owed by PSS is $7.18 million. This balance represents a principal amount owing for electrical, water, and wastewater services in the amount of $6,377,023 and accrued late charges of $807,558.

It was learned that late charges continue to accrue on the accounts at a rate of 1 percent per month.

Sablan stated in his letter that CUC acknowledges that a portion of these arrears that have accrued since Oct. 1, 2013, is disputed. However, Sablan indicated that there is a total of $6.09 million in arrears for utility services CUC rendered to PSS prior to Oct. 1, 2013.

"Our receivable from PSS accounts for 31 percent of the total receivables from our government customers, and approximately 26 percent of all accounts receivables from our customers (residential, commercial, government accounts)," said Sablan, adding that the PSS outstanding receivables has a tremendous negative effect on the agency's cash flow.

As a result, CUC is unable to take care of its operational requirements, has halted planned maintenance routines, and is unable to keep months of fuel inventory, among others, Sablan said.

He revealed that due to CUC's cash flow situation, its fuel inventory is only good for days rather than several months as required.

CUC has already filed a lawsuit to collect on PSS' arrears. Sablan disclosed that initial settlement negotiations have been stalled pending the approval of the fiscal year 2015 budget for PSS.

Sablan disclosed that CUC is willing to delay the collection lawsuit if a "realistic payment plan" will be presented by the school system.

"We would be willing to stipulate to delay our lawsuit, if we can come up with a payment plan that is realistic and acceptable to retire the past due accounts of PSS within a reasonable time. Such a plan would put us on track to improving our services to our customers and PSS," according to Sablan.

However, "failure to make arrangements for payment of this amount within the next 15 days will leave CCU with no alternative but to consider further action including, but not limited, to disconnection of services."

In the event of disconnections, the BOE was informed that further fees may also be assessed, including reconnection fees.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan refused to comment on the issue when asked by *Saipan Tribune* on Thursday.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, however, told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that "discussions are ongoing and [those] concerned are working cooperatively toward a resolution." ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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JIM STOWELL

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero lead a joint proclamation signing, declaring May 1, 2014, as Law Day in the CNMI. From left are Deleon Guerrero, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Inos, Castro, CNMI Bar president Maya B. Kara, and Associate Justice Perry B. Inos.

3 govt branches in a joint proclamation for Law Day

The Executive and Legislative branches joined the CNMI Judiciary in signing a proclamation on Friday, declaring Thursday, May 1, 2014, as "Law Day" in the CNMI.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero signed the joint proclamation in a brief ceremony in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Inos encouraged people of the CNMI to participate and support the Judiciary's programs and activities for Law Day, which has a theme "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters."

Also present at the ceremony were Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, CNMI Bar Association president Maya B. Kara, and Associate Judges Kenneth L. Govendo and David A. Wiseman.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona and Associate Judges Joseph N. Camacho and Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, and Senate president Ralph DLG. Torres signed the proclamation in advance as they could not attend the ceremony due to conflicting schedules.

According to the proclamation, Law Day is an occasion of public acknowledgment of the nation's and the CNMI's heritage of justice, liberty, and equality under the law, and May 1 has been declared "Law Day" by Congress.

In his welcome remarks, Jim Stowell, public information officer for the CNMI Judiciary and executive director of the Northern Mariana Judiciary Historical Society, expressed appreciation to the many people who participated in a variety of programs held over the course of the last month leading up to Law Day.

"These community outreach efforts began with the justices, judges, and law clerks going to the classrooms and speaking at assemblies about this year's Law Day theme and the role of the Judiciary in protecting that process," Stowell said.

On Thursday, the Judiciary's 25th anniversary, CNMI courts will hold a special recognition session in the Supreme Court at 10am, in which winners of this year's Law Day poster and essay contest winners will be presented with awards. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Justice Manglona, judges Naraja and Govendo up for retention election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo will be up for retention election this November.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro disclosed during Friday's proclamation signing for May 1 Law Day that Manglona, Naraja, and Govendo are next on line for the retention election.

Manglona, Naraja, and Govendo have not publicly discussed their intent to serve additional terms on the bench.

Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed in April 2000 then associate judge Manglona as associate justice. Manglona was sworn in in June 2000, joining then-chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and then-associate justice and now Chief Justice Alexandro Castro in the three-seat CNMI Supreme Court.

Then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed Naraja in November 2001 as associate judge. Two years later, then-governor Juan N. Babauta appointed Naraja as presiding judge.

Babauta appointed Govendo as associate judge in 2003.

In November 2007, voters overwhelmingly voted for the retention of Manglona, Naraja, and Govendo.

With their retention, Manglona's term that expired in 2008 was extended for eight more years, while judges Naraja and Govendo, whose terms expired in 2009, received additional six years.

In 2003, Juan T. Lizama was the first then judge in the CNMI to be retained on the bench.

Timothy H. Bellas and Virginia Onerherheim-Sablan were the only then judges who failed to get the majority voters' confidence.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Augustin Tudela Castro, Petitioner, vs. Xuhong Xu Castro, Respondent,) FCD-DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 14-0145) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502680 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 3rd day of April, 2014:

/s/Clerk of Court

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP14-CHCC-097
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 28, 2014 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"REVENUE CYCLE MANAGEMENT"

The scope of work is available on or after April 28, 2014 at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at Lower Base Drive during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this project may be submitted to ms. Esther I. Muna, CEO-CHCC via e-mail to esther.muna@dph.gov.mp no later than the close of business, May 16, 2014.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
Chief Executive Officer, CHCC

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ray P. Boongaling Petitioner, vs. Leonila Tordil-Boongaling Respondent,) FCD-DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 11-0518) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501760 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 10th day of April 2014.

/s/ Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP14-DPS/BMV-098

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 30, 2014
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY GRADE CUSTOM-MADE FURNITURES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED –UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO MR. JAMES R. RABAULIMAN, VIA E-MAIL TO jrrabauliman@dps.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **MAY 16, 2014.**

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP14-DCCA/NAP-057

SUBMISSION: JULY 28, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO PROVIDE CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM'S ELIGIBILITY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **APRIL 28, 2014** AT THE OFFICE OF THE **N.A.P. OFFICE**, LOCATED AT THE JTV BUILDING IN AS LITO , SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELT AT **9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME. ON MAY 28, 2014** AT THE DCCA-NAP OFFICE. **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ARE DUE NO LATER THA THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 30, 2014** AND MUST BE DIRECTED TO MR. WALTER MACARANAS, NAP ADMINISTRATOR BY FAX TO (670) 664-2850 OR E-MAIL TO **dccanap@pticom.com.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held on Thursday May 1st at 1:30 pm. In the Governor's Conference Room 2nd Floor Juan Sablan Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following is the proposed agenda

I. Meeting Called to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Executive Session
IV. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Office of the Governor at 237-2200.

Precision Medical Imaging holds grand opening

JAYSON CAMACHO

Precision Medical Imaging, LLC president Joe Santos, fourth from left, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), fifth from left, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, seventh from left, officials from Japan and some staff of Precision Medical Imaging cut the ribbon before the blessing of the offices of the only medical imaging service provider in the CNMI.

Precision Medical Imaging, LLC, the only state-of-the art medical imaging service in the Western Pacific outside of Hawaii, held its ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday to officially unveil one of the islands' newest businesses.

The ceremony was attended by more than 50 guests that included government officials, Commonwealth Cancer Association officials, representatives of health care providers in the CNMI, and off-island visitors from Japan.

PMI vice president Joseph Guerrero said the idea behind the facility started when he wrote plans for it on a piece of napkin. He said his dream turned into reality, thanks to the help of his cousin, Joseph Santos, who is the president of PMI.

"I remember grabbing a cocktail napkin and started writing down a business plan, and of course everyone who knows me knows that it included lots of numbers and it showed that there was a real need, and we started to plan by bringing in a 128-slice machine," Guerrero said.

He noted that they are now able to provide first class radiology and health care services to the people of the CNMI.

"They deserve nothing less," he said.

Santos, who is a co-owner with Guerrero of St. Joseph's Medical Transport in Guam and also the owner of St. Michael's Medical Response on Saipan, said that they hired the only mammographic specialist in the CNMI, Nolia Muellersman.

"She is the only certified mammographic specialist in the CNMI and is now working for Precision but is also working for our public hospital," Santos said.

Santos said they are planning in the next year on acquiring an MRI machine to complement the equipment at PMI.

He noted that they would be working in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and other health providers on the island.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he is proud of what Santos and Guerrero are doing to benefit the people of the CNMI.

"This will fully help our people, and they know it and will fully benefit patients in need of imaging services," Inos said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said this opening of a privately owned and operated radiology imaging center "is a first for the CNMI, a wonderful accomplishment for two entrepreneurs and a huge health benefit for our people."

"Lives will be saved, costs for imaging reduced, travel inconveniences for patients eliminated, and jobs created," he added.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said it is a great thing for the CNMI to now have its own medical imaging service provider.

"This of course will serve as a back-up for us, and we want to make sure that patients have access to getting a CT scan and, if our equipment breaks down, we know that there is another provider here on the island," Muña said.

CCA board secretary Bobbi Grizzard echoed Muña's sentiment.

"It is going to be a benefit for us people so we don't have to go off-island. We can get treatment and diagnosed here and it's fantastic that Santos and Guerrero has pulled through with this," Grizzard said.

She noted that too many of her friends go off-island but that now Precision's is here '"we know where to go."

Santos said their CT scanner could detect tumors, cancers, and coronary heart disease in a non-invasive way.

"We can also produce four-dimensional sonograms and the first digital mammograms with our fully digital mammography machine," Santos said.

PMI is located at the Springs Plaza on Middle Road and is a fully ADA-compliant center. All work is done through computers and a high technology efficient center with no paperwork needed for operations.

It is open from Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm. For more information, contact 233-4582. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-322-9830/34 Fax: 670-322-2633

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources will be conducting a public hearing on the Sea Touch Saipan proposal to lease near-shore submerged land in the Garapan Lagoon for its proposed marine activity project.

The applicant, Baldyga International Group, LLC proposes to construct and operate a sea-life interactive experience program using local sharks and sting rays under a strict controlled setting. This activity will focus on the tourism industry and local students and follow the proven operational plans developed in the Caribbean region where this program is very popular.

The public hearing is scheduled for May 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria.

Copies of the proposed projects will be made available upon request at the DLNR Secretary's Office. DLNR will accept written comments addressing public use issues associated with the proposed project up to the date of the hearing. For more information, you may contact Vina Saures at 322-9834.

/s/ Arnold I. Palacios
Secretary, DLNR

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Council on Development Disabilities would like to inform all CCD Board Members and the General Public that the CDD 1st Quarter General Membership Board Meeting scheduled for April 29, 2014 is hereby postponed due to no quorum.

The CDD 1st Quarter General Membership Board Meeting is rescheduled to May 13, 2014 and will be held at the Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call CNMI Council on Development Disabilities Office at 664-7000/1.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

OAG succeeds in 3 trial convictions

The Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division has concluded three consecutive separate bench trial rulings resulting in convictions in the past few weeks.

In January 2013, a domestic violence case involving Erwin Togawa, who at the time of the offense was an enforcement officer at the Department of Commerce, threatened to kill his girlfriend with a knife as a result of an argument that ensued between the two. At the time of the threat, their toddler daughter was in their presence. The victim reported the crime to DPS the following day, in addition to filing a petition for a temporary restraining order. Additional evidence confirmed that in May 2012, the defendant threatened to run over the same victim and daughter with his car.

The court's ruling found the defendant guilty and he was convicted of assault and disturbing the peace, with both crimes of domestic violence committed in the presence of their daughter. Assistant attorney general Margo Badawy prosecuted the case on behalf of the CNMI government.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda prosecuted the second bench trial case involving Nestor Manabat. The defendant was charged with domestic violence that involved his common-law wife. The victim claimed the defendant slapped her face, choked her, and pulled her hair. The victim asserted that the defendant grabbed a machete from a cabinet and threatened her. It was the same machete that six years ago the defendant used and threatened her life with when a spat ensued between the two. The couple's 11 year-old daughter witnessed the fight.

At the trial, the victim recanted her story on the witness stand. Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja deemed the 11-year-old child as not competent to testify and she was excluded as a witness.

In the end, Naraja found the defendant guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace of his common-law wife.

The latest trial that resulted with the maximum of six months' imprisonment without parole involved disbarred attorney, Antonio M. Atalig. The six-month prison term was handed down by Associate Judge David A. Wiseman after Atalig failed to turn himself in to the Department of Corrections to carry out his sentence in a domestic violence case. The six-month prison term for criminal contempt was recommended by assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, who prosecuted the case. ***(OAG)***

Free 'Project Safe Neighborhoods' conference tomorrow

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands is sponsoring a "Project Safe Neighborhoods Conference: Engaging our Youth and Family, Schools, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Private Sector in Community Partnership," on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, from 8:30am to 5pm, to be held at the American Memorial Park. Registration will be from 7:45am to 8:30am. The conference is open to the public and free of charge.

We encourage and welcome students, parents and guardians, family members, teachers, administrators, school counselors and nurses, law enforcement, social service providers, victim advocates, mental health and medical professionals, faith-based community, and all of our community stakeholders to attend and participate. Sessions will cover areas such as:

■ What is bullying and cyberbullying?

■ Is it against the law to bully and cyberbully?

■ What can we do to stop bullying and cyberbullying?

■ What are the dangers on the Internet and how can we be safe?

■ What is sexting?

■ What can we do lf we feel anxious or depressed?

■ What can we do to prevent suicide?

■ Dating violence, safe dating and street smarts

■ Can you tell me more about the dangers of drugs?

■ What are the laws about drugs and guns?

■ Abuse and neglect of children, the elderly and persons with disabilities: what is mandated reporting?

■ What are the rights of victims of crime?

■ Know your victim advocates

■ Know your community service providers and resources

If you would like to attend the conference, email Salome Blas, LEC/VW coordinator, at salome.blas@usdoj.gov. ***(USAO)***

MVA joins Moscow Luxury Travel Fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently reached out to top-tier travel partners in Russia at the Condé Nast Traveller Luxury Travel Fair held on March 18, 2014, in Moscow.

The fair brought together "the best of the best" in the luxury tourism industry and provided the MVA with access to Russia's top travel professionals, journalists, and corporate travel agents.

"Condé Nast Traveller Luxury Travel Fair promotes itself as an exclusive, luxurious venue for purveyors of high-end travel services to make lucrative business contacts with individuals and companies who are liaisons, advisors, and consultants for the world's most demanding and experienced travelers," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "To be invited to join this fair speaks highly of what the Northern Marianas has to offer Russian visitors."

Two Russian-speaking representatives from the MVA's offices in Saipan and Vladivostok attended the event to share information about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The fair hand-picked exhibitors from the top 100 companies in the travel industry, including hotel chains, luxury hotels and resorts, national and regional tourism offices including the MVA, air companies, cruise companies, and more.

So far this fiscal year, 7,452 Russians have visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PR & marketing manager Svetlana Vasilevskaya, left, and marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta of the Marianas Visitors Authority promoted Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the exclusive Condé Nast Traveller Luxury Travel Fair held on March 18, 2014, in Moscow.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Family grief support meeting on May 1

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, May 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, at the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 989-9821 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ April 28 and 29, from 9am to 11pm

■ April 30, from 10am to 5pm

■ May 1, from 11am to 8pm

■ May 2, from 9am to 3pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

NO job is a good job unless it's a safe job

Contact the CNMI DOL OSHA On-Site Consultation at 664-3156/57 for your free consultation services. Your commitment in improving the safety and health of your business for your employees is a smart investment. Workers killed, hurt, or made sick by their jobs are not forgotten. Your commitment and our commitment in providing your free consultation services is our business. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 28, 2006

Raids net 55 illegal workers

Authorities raided two establishments yesterday morning in As Lito and Chalan Kanoa where they arrested 55 alien workers for allegedly engaging in unlawful employment. Agents from the Attorney General's Investigative Unit, Immigration, and the Department of Public Safety simultaneously swooped down on Rifu Apparel Corp. in As Lito and R&B Corp.'s trimming plant in Chalan Kanoa. The agents rounded up 54 Chinese nationals and one Korean. Except for two, all are women. The 55 were brought before Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman for a bail hearing. Wiseman imposed a $100 cash bail for each of the 50 respondents and $1,000 cash bail each on five others.

Child abuse cases go up in FY05

The Commonwealth posted a total of 977 recorded incidents of child abuse and neglect in fiscal year 2005, a 6.6-percent increase over the 916 cases that were posted in fiscal year 2004. Physical neglect and emotional maltreatment ranked high among the four major types of abuse inflicted on the children. Based on data released by the Division of Youth Services Child Protective Unit, 362 cases of physical neglect were recorded in FY 2005, which makes up 37.05 percent of all cases posted during the fiscal year. Physical neglect, on the other hand, ranked second and numbered 288, or 29.48 percent of the total. Other types of abuse or neglect were physical abuse with 177, or 18.12 percent; and sexual abuse, with 150 cases, or 15.35 percent of FY 2005's total. Of the reported cases, only 588, or 60.18 percent, were substantiated, while 330, or 33.78 percent, were not.

April 28, 2007

Fitial: NMI govt is 'still broke'

The surprise was that there was no surprise. True to his word, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reported the state of the Commonwealth as it is. The government is "still broke," he said yesterday, and "better times" will take some time. In his 54-minute speech, Fitial reiterated his position on proposals to subject the CNMI to federal wage and immigration laws. He proposed measures to continue cutting the cost of government, including a possible termination of civil service employees. He enumerated investments coming the way of the islands. "Last year I reported to you that the CNMI government was broke. Today I stand before you to report that we are still broke. We have worked hard and we have hard work ahead, but I want to assure you that we are coming back from the serious economic decline we are experiencing.

'Local immigration control is not a permanent right'

Local immigration control is a temporary right that the U.S. Congress can take away from the Commonwealth anytime, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said yesterday. Tenorio, a former member of the Covenant negotiating team, said the U.S.-CNMI agreement gave Congress the power to bring the Commonwealth under federal immigration law. He also said the CNMI should not assume that federalization would not happen just because previous attempts had failed.

April 28, 2008

House cuts govt's Fund contribution

The House of Representatives passed on Friday a bill reducing the government contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund from 18 percent to 11 percent. The bill was approved by an overwhelming majority, with only Rep. Tina Sablan voting against it. Earlier that day, the Legislature received a presentation from the Fund's actuarial consultant, who said the government must contribute 37.39 percent of its total payroll to keep the pension program from going under.

'Govendo has a pattern of changing his orders'

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has a pattern of changing his ruling on the bench without conducting a hearing, according to attorney Antonio M. Atalig. Atalig said in the first order he issued on the bench Govendo ordered him and attorney Reynaldo O. Yana to spend 30 days in jail for civil contempt. "Later on he (Govendo) changed it. We're beginning to realize that this judge loves to change his orders he issued on the bench," said Atalig after Friday's hearing when police re-arrested him and Yana.

Bank of Guam is newest title sponsor of 2014 MMAC

The Bank of Guam donated $3,000 to the 2014 MMAC committee Thursday morning at its offices in Garapan, making the company a title sponsor of this year's edition of the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Manny Borja, 2014 MMAC overall committee chairman, said that Bank of Guam is a longstanding title sponsor of the annual event.

"They have been a title sponsor for many years and they have been fully supportive of the MMAC and we look forward to working with them for years to come," Borja said.

BOG vice president and regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane said they had been participating in the Marianas March Against Cancer event when it was still called the "Relay for Life."

"BOG had been participating in the march against cancer for many years since 'Relay for Life' and we have been supportive of the vision and mission of the Commonwealth Cancer Association," Tomokane said.

Tomokane said this is in line with the bank's consistent support of other non-profit organizations.

"We have always been supportive of many non-profit organizations, and we will continue supporting the MMAC for many years to come," she said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos who was present at the time of the donation, said he is glad that many donors have come forward to support the MMAC.

"This is an event that the [Commonwealth Cancer Association] holds every year so we can be more aware of the causes of this deadly disease. I want to congratulate Bank of Guam for donating to the MMAC," Inos said.

This year's MMAC title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., GPPC, Island Apparel, IT&E, Joeten Daidai Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP. Its major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, McDonald's of Saipan, Precision Medical Imaging, Saint Michael's Medical Response, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Xerox Corp.

The 2014 MMAC will be held on May 2 and May 3, 2014, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

For more information, contact Borja at 989-1987, email him at emanuel.borja@gmail.com, or visit CCA website at www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

JAYSON CAMACHO

Bank of Guam on Saipan donates $3,000 to the 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer in support of the fight against cancer.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 10th birthday to our one and only baby girl, Jerishna Kianne P. DLGuerrero! Greetings coming out from Mom, Dad, Kaelib, and Kaeden.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Justin Dylan, and may you have many more birthdays to come! Enjoy your special day. Love and miss you so much! Love, Mama Katie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO. 017 D 27 JUDGE WAY, GARAPAN, SAIPAN Minimum Bid: $56,800.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on May 13, 2014, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be $(please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2014.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-SOQ-14-013

DESIGN OF LOWER BASE SEWER SYSTEM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms to design the Lower Base Sewer System on the island of Saipan, which will replace the existing and dilapidated sewer system which dates back to the Naval administration of Saipan. The design will intercept the existing Capitol Hill sewer in the lower portion of Isa Drive, will service the main Lower Base industrial area, and will include a new lift station that will pump into the existing force main coming from Tanapag. This force main will be extended and enlarged from the point of connection to discharge to the existing S-3 lift station at the Saipan Seaport, enabling the abandonment of lift stations S-1, T-3, and the Tan Holdings lift station. Connection of all existing, active buildings within the area served by the design will also be included. A&E services will include the necessary geotechnical and surveying services to develop the design and construction documents. Work must be coordinated with the A&E firm selected by the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF) to design the Lower Base water system, which will be on-going at near the same time as this design contract. This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and all work is subject to EDA review and approval.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective A&E firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC SOQ 14-013, Request for Statement of Qualifications-Design of Lower Base Sewer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 6, 2014. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing A&E firms.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 27, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than May 29, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

For detained immigrants, a too-long wait for justice

Comprehensive immigration reform is probably dead for yet another year, the victim—once again—of a dysfunctional Congress that can't even reach agreement on the things it agrees on. There is nothing President Obama can do about that, although if therapy were available for political relationships, there'd be a referral waiting to be made.

In the meantime, the president still has to administer immigration laws as they exist, and he reportedly is considering dropping his opposition to bond hearings for detained undocumented immigrants. That would be a smart move; indeed, courts in California and Massachusetts have already ordered just that for detainees held more than six months.

Elsewhere, immigrants who are accused of entering the country illegally are currently kept in federal detention facilities until an immigration judge can rule on whether they should be deported. The system is swamped, and detainees spend an unconscionable amount of time waiting for court dates, at a cost to the taxpayers of $159 per detainee per day, according to the National Immigration Forum. An American Civil Liberties Union-commissioned analysis of 1,000 people detained for at least six months found they spent an average of 404 days—more than 13 months—in custody. Length of time varied: 86 detainees were held for more than two years; one was held for 1,585 days, or more than four years.

This is an embarrassment in a nation that prides itself on its adherence to the rule of law. Speeding up the process seems to be beyond the government's staffing and budget capabilities, but those accused of coming to the U.S. illegally don't deserve indefinite incarceration. Besides, even if the government drops its opposition to bond hearings, detainees would still not receive the same treatment as accused criminals, who don't have to wait six months to be offered a chance for bail.

If a court case can't be heard in a reasonable amount of time—and six months seems a more than reasonable amount of time to hold a person who has been accused but not convicted—then the detainee ought to be given a bond hearing in which a judge determines whether he poses a flight risk or threat to public safety. If he does not, he should be released under supervision, including an ankle bracelet if prudent. The ACLU says that of 1,262 detainees who have since had bond hearings, 871 were ruled eligible (which suggests how many nonviolent immigrants are being jailed).

Forcing people to wait for hundreds of days in detention centers before having their day in court is manifestly unfair, unnecessarily costly and unwise.

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Sacred space

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

On my last trip to Saipan, I embarked from Dalian and returned the same way. Dalian is a metropolis of Manchuria by virtue of history and design, location, and history. Located on the southern tip of the Liaoning peninsula, it was priced by the Russian navy for its year-round warm water, compared to Vladivostok's that freezes in winter. As a cosmopolitan center, it is referred to as the Hong Kong of the northeast. After viewing at the turn of the year what HK had done with Victoria Island, the appellation is not an upgrade.

The Tsar encountered Japan's modernized navy built in the Meiji Restoration that was a product of Nippon's industrialization mid-1800. The event was remarkable in that it was the first time a non-Western navy defeated a prominent Western one, resulting in the humiliation of Russia for which Stalin kept a grudge in WWII. It also stoked Nippon's pride in Japanese nationalism—it occupied Manchuria, led to Nanjing in the infamous rape of the city and extended its reach to the oil fields of Indochina that eventually led to Pearl Harbor when the U.S. blockaded its access. It is being restoked by PM Shinzo Abe.

When I left Shenyang for Saipan in March, the ponds, streams, and even rivers all the way south to Dalian were still frozen. It was no longer the case when I returned. Bereft of not too much foliage, the commercial farms were mostly colored tan with a lot of plastic-canopied farm structures to trap humidity and heat to sustain cultivated plants.

The train I took was the electric CHR bound for Harbin of Heilongjiang that flew off the ground at a speed of 250kms/hr. and higher. To Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping's credit, the expenditure for rapid transit accelerated in their watch while superhighway construction egged by car dealers and the nouveau riche had gone the way of the tortoise.

Change has come to Manchuria in the three years I've lived here. Cement, iron, concrete blocks and steel sprouted all over as domestic consumption rather than export became the engine of its economy. SMEs in free market ambience broadened the economic base. State-owned industries rapidly built, good for labor with an eye against corruption, but they are hard on the terrain as hills and mountains are bulldozed for gravel and sand.

The West celebrates chronology. Preferred times are civilization's Golden Age. The Parthenon stands for the glory that was Greece and the Coliseum echoes the grandeur that was Rome. We treat the museum grounds, the Japanese jail and the Sugar King Park at Gualo Rai, the AMP and the Suicide and Banzai cliffs similarly. Old Man by the Sea and the Grotto are turned into the specter of where the unwary, the reckless, the careless, and the inebriated tourists drown. We've added mystery and gruesome value to fate.

Not the *kronos* but the *locus* is China's forte. Communal spaces get varnished so its glitter attracts notice. Tomb sites are revered and the ordinary is made holy. Places of adoration are protected and sanctified. In many homes and establishments around the world, corner altars are built so individuals and families remember either ancestors, traditions, or home beyond the current front doors. Others tend gardens indoors and out as powerful reminders of life's infinitesimal aesthetic value, and havens of escape as existentially, daily living is experienced in its chaos and turmoil.

The closest thing to a "sacred" space in my home is the sunroom where fast growing South African spider plants are tended, then I put them in my tenements' staircase windows and landings as décor to discourage indiscriminate throwing of trash on the floor and warns wall stickers of ads and notices to stick with the bulletin board. The plants also indirectly encourage my neighbors to attend to common space with the same fastidiousness that they give their dwellings' interior.

China is aware of the carbon it emits into its northern skies as abundant *mei* (coal) is used to heat homes and to power factories. A Canada colleague watched a TV program on the polluted skies of China, familiar to us in Manchuria where coal is dynastic monarch. In the open grasslands of Inner Mongolia are structures generating electricity for use elsewhere. The hovering tan clouds I saw in the distant foothills at dawn and dusk indicated that more than hot air was emitted from the plant towers.

China, like other developing economies, often finds itself defensive on carbon emissions, treating it as a logistical issue rather than the moral-bashing it gets from the press, as if the United States never had its Cleveland and Pittsburg, and England its Manchester and London. I lived in North Carolina and Washington, D.C., Chicago and Kentucky, and traveled through the contiguous states save Vermont. Smog in the '60s to the '90s was not uncommon in all of them. The experience was like driving behind a smoke-belching bus on Isa Drive on Saipan. Passing a vehicle on that road is not a smart option.

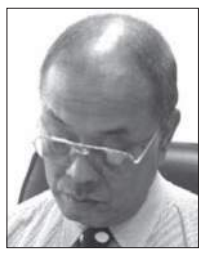
Sacred space in our time is now one, coughing and belching itself as its climate gets adjusted to a change in temperature, and the air/ocean currents gets realigned for Mother Gaia to fix her bearings.

Earth. She's my sacred space. What's yours?

Casino: A terrible deal!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The Saipan casino law is terribly shortsighted as it literally sold the islands and our people for 30 pieces of silver. This is the work of evil geniuses of pro-casino legislators and the governor.

The Inos, Guerrero, Hocog, Demapan, and Torres cabal are convinced the $30 million is the value of the island and our people. It is their savior to save the Fund. But the settlement agreement requires $50 million annually to pay retirees, true? Isn't there a shortfall of $20 million? What happens to retirees' paychecks after 2015?

The governor and his running mate were in Hong Kong in search of investors. Isn't this the role and duty of the gaming commission? Why would you people pre-empt the commission from doing its work?

Do you realize that your trip raised more suspicion than trust and confidence? Why the spouts that applicants weren't the ones you met? Then whom did you meet and who handed you the casino law so crafted to meet their corrupt whims?

There's the Latin term "gravitas" which simply means "the dignity of leadership." It's all about recognizing the seriousness of the issue at hand with a strong sense of responsibility that doesn't give into frivolous behavior or excessive levity.

Why would you actively seek alleged professionals on casino from Hong Kong and Macau? In short, why bring the fox to guard the chicken coop or people who are in bed with so-called investors? Whatever happened to common sense in this case?

Moreover, the CNMI is a permanent part of the U.S. Is there fear bringing real experts from the Nevada Gaming Commission? How many of you have a clear understanding of what "soft" and "hard" counting entails? It's the most important aspect in any casino operation and is it something you wish to leave in complete abandon? Isn't this where we figure out taxes and how much must go into the local government coffers?

The national average on casino taxes and elsewhere is about 37 percent. Why are you charging only 17 percent? Why are we openly ignoring the very aspect in real time revenue generation? Isn't this the goal—make more money—where Vegas, Macau, Singapore, and South Korea make its money? You seem lost in fees or bread crumbs!

When you turn yourself into slaves of people with money, it seems very clear how easily your knees buckle as to ignore the needs of your people. Are the island and its people worth only 30 pieces of silver? Is this your ultimate display of disorientation, shortsightedness and loss of your "true north"?

Caveat: For investors please do your "due diligence" and take note that by month's end there would be over 5,000 signatures to place the casino law on the ballot for complete repeal. We will guarantee you the final death of casino once and for all. Do you still wish to remit your $30 million?

If we follow your mindset, it seems that for every fiscal malady or shortfall here, we should scrounge up more casinos to meet revenues going south. Imagine how many casinos would be needed to take care of CUC's $64 million court adjudicated fine, the Fund's $700 million unfunded liability; more than $200 million if we float pension bond obligation; $23 million in government utility bills; CHC's $500,000 monthly utility bill; $6.5 million annually to cover Medicaid when it runs out of funds; $13 million owed DB members; and other obligations. Shortsighted!

With more debts than the much promoted monetary savior from casino, this activity would definitely prompt corruption given that the law is simply a woefully terrible deal for the islands and its people. I'm appalled that they have the gall to sell our islands and people for 30 pieces of silver! It's far from being the real answer to the bankruptcy of the local government. Sign the petition to repeal this law and let's show the half-cocked elite on the hill that we treasure and are ever mindful of the future of our children! Let's repeal casino. Better safe than sorry!

Juggling trivia

When CNMI hotel employees are paid $5.50 an hour and must still head to NAP Office for food stamps, what does this tell you? Isn't this a form of federal subsidy for the hotels? It's no rocket science stuff either, discerning that at day's end it's a federal subsidy!

■■■

Then hoteliers start spouting we need more hotel rooms. Yet we can't replace the 10,000 foreign workers with warm bodied U.S. citizens? Placing 2,000 more rooms translates into 5,000-plus more jobs, most of which would go to foreign workers. Something's amiss here and "planning" doesn't seem to be on our radar screen.

■■■

Cliven Bundy, the Nevada cattle rancher all his life (and a family history as ranchers for nearly a century) never backed off the Bureau of Land Management's attempt to chase him off from grazing public land. The feds pulled back out for fear of mounting support for the Bundy family.

The feud shows an oppressive federal government boasting of an overreach to intimidate citizens. The U.S. Constitution didn't authorize the federal government from any form of land ownership. So what's BML trying to secure without ownership?

■■■

Rev. Al Sharpton has redefined Easter to mean the resurrection of Obama. Dumb! Is the Holy Bible about Obama or Christ? I suppose this is one time when I could settle for premeditated stupidity! He's the most racially pulverizing promoter of racism designed to hail left wing agenda. Mr. Sharpton, we're not as stupid as you are, sir!

■■■

Appalling how the IRS has spent $2.8 million giving its employees bonuses for doing regular task. Isn't it their job to collect taxes? Isn't it also their responsibility to pay their share of taxes? Why would the IRS reward employees who failed to pay their own taxes? Insane!

'Haha' and 'LOL': Are texting's staples simple laziness or signs of social desperation?

By MICHAEL KRIKORIAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last week I sent a text message to a friend. A Hollywood business meeting I had high hopes for had been suddenly "postponed."

"Everybody canceled except me," I texted.

She texted back, "Haha."

What's so funny about it, I wondered? Where's the haha in my disappointment? My text was more sad than funny; her text steamed me. Dismissed twice.

"Haha" and its partner, "LOL," are texting's go-to replies, a vaguely complimentary, vaguely condescending way to acknowledge a text has been received.

I once wrote about the overuse of the superlative "amazing," and, predictably, almost everyone I knew who read the piece told me it was an "amazing" article. Haha. Good one. LOL.

But the use of amazing is paltry compared with haha and LOL. OMG, I bet there are serious stats somewhere. Maybe the NSA could confirm it: I'd guess haha and LOL are approaching 1 billion "sends" a day, about three hahas and three LOLs for every American.

My 20-year-old friend Ida is the Barry Bonds of haha. I could break my femur and that's what I'd get back from her. And fast. In the Texting Hall of Fame, Ida will be first ballot.

I can pretty much predict when I'll get the response.

The single ha is employed for something that approaches humor, but more likely is a statement bordering on the ludicrous. For example, I text you, "Lets go 2 Aleppo, Syria"; you reply, "Ha."

Less ludicrous, more humor and haha comes back. LOLs require being a bit funnier, but not much.

One time a text I sent got a hahahahaha. Two hahas, one ha. Not too shabby for a gang reporter. Someone told me a cousin of a friend of theirs once got a hahahahahahahahaha (nine), but this guy exaggerates, so maybe he only got a hahahahahahaha (seven)—which is nothing to laugh at.

It might have taken Richard Pryor in his prime to get hahahahahahahaha (nine) or even a hahahahahahahaha (eight).

Still, even if Pryor got a string of hahas, it wouldn't be as good as LOLLOLLOLLOLLOL (five). Now, that's very funny. That's someone approaching hysteria. That's someone bent over, hands on their thighs, panting heavily just to recuperate from the laughter that may have even brought them to tears.

And though technically five LOLs have about the same number of characters as "that's very funny," they can be typed 2.4 seconds quicker. I'm pretty sure.

And therein lounges the lure of these two text messages: Speed. Ease of thumb typing.

And then, simple laziness or maybe social desperation: The way you politely laugh at a story someone tells at a party, even though it isn't funny, you can now haha by mobile device.

Even if a text is funny, no one is really laughing. Walk down any street and people have their heads down, staring at their phones, texting or looking at texts. None of them is laughing out loud. They aren't even smiling. They might be typing haha or LOL, but they are not living the text, not texting the truth.

If they were, you would be able to stick your head out of any office building in America and hear uncontrolled laughter. (I don't know about other countries. I mean, do Russians haha? I bet Russian teenagers do. "Crimea back in da house!" "Haha.")

I'm not saying you shouldn't haha or LOL, but maybe change it up every now and then. Maybe frame a real response.

And yeah, I'll get a lot of texts about this. You know what they'll say.

Michael Krikorian is a former Los Angeles Times *staff writer and the author of a crime novel* Southside.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not all money is good money: Part I

Anyone who has played dominos and certainly anyone with morals know that not all money is good money as only criminals view all money as being good. It is almost common knowledge that this administration has tricked retirees into accepting what is literally bribe money for a vote. The governor's political play was so strong retirees can't even refuse the bribe money as it is automatic and only a fool would refuse money they can get out of this government anyway. But there is a way for retirees to turn this bad money into good money *if* retirees are smart.

Everyone, especially retirees, know that the government is wrong to force a casino in contempt of the two no votes, which makes any money or fruit from the casino poisonous (tainted) from its very conception. We really can't expect a lot of good from something so scandalously created in contempt of the people and dividing the people. To make it worse, my many warnings about the need for us to know who the investor(s) are before we leap into creating a casino were completely ignored—another I told you so—confirming that our leadership is worse than a hard-headed child because they are hard-headed adults who just refuse to listen!

Our representatives on the Hill act like they are surprised that it was just two investors but if I knew there would be two, why didn't they? No homework, duh? I wonder if they even understand what is happening because I know at least half of them are just playing follow-the-leader! I have been telling readers for the longest we are in the middle of an investor war to gain control of the CNMI's gaming industry. That is what this is really about but many just can't see or don't want to see the big picture. But the investor(s) need to know that it is only a legislative law, not supported by the people that could and will be changed by referendum in November or by the next Legislature and new governor, especially if the economic initiative passes, because more and more people are saying they would rather see marijuana legalized and the removal of poker than a casino.

I know some retirees seem to think that the people who are against the casino are trying to take money out of their pockets. Well, FYI, retirees, the casino push started over a decade ago with the excuse of land compensation and there has been every excuse under the sun used; it just happened to stop at the 25 percent. Retirees were abused just so they could be used! I'm a retiree, too, and the first thing we need to hope for is that we even get the $30 million and that the Stars investors will get the bid. At least it will be good money and I will tell you why in Part II.

Retirees represent the largest voting bloc and if retirees vote yes to all the referendums and yes to the economic reform initiative, you will have led the way for the retirees to have two chances at collecting the 25 percent, fixing our economy and our financial challenges for many years into the future—it is really just that simple.

P.S.: I hope retirees are not so gullible (naive or suckers) as politicians are gloating over them getting their 25 percent in this election season. They are counting on you to be naive and give them your vote. Most of them are playing follow-the-governor and riding along with the economic political power play by the governor to get the retiree vote. Now readers know why it was such a rush job, done overnight after a decade as the casino could have easily gone on the ballot and done the right way this late in the year.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

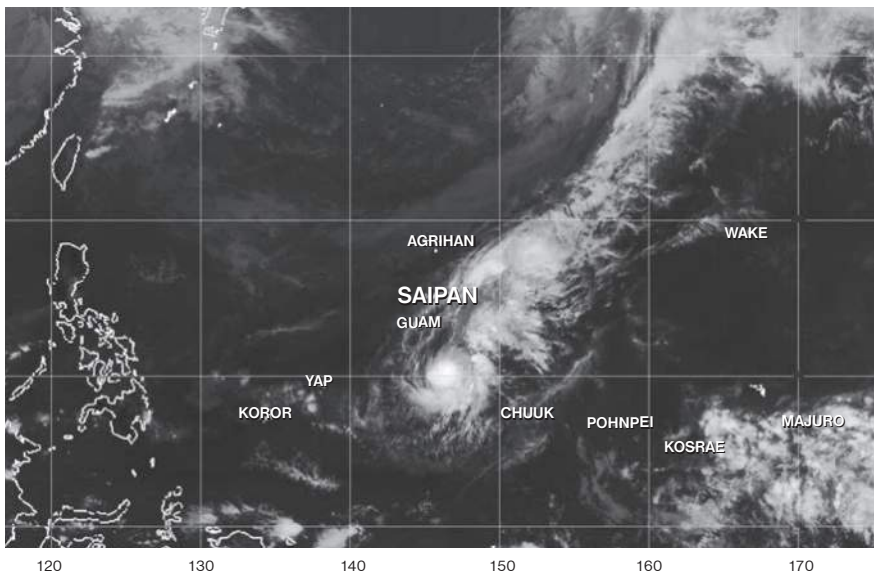
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲82	▼51
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
London	Showers	▲64	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲70	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲93	▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲71	▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲85	▼75
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Osaka	Rain	▲66	▼57
Paris	Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Pusan	Rain	▲63	▼53
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲61	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼39
San Francisco	Showers	▲58	▼48
Seoul	Showers	▲66	▼48
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A frontal boundary curves southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima near 25N155E to west of the northern CNMI passing just north of Pagan near 16N140E then curves west-northwestward to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness, patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are present along and up to 240 miles north of this boundary. A tropical disturbance is centered south of Guam near 11N146E. A surface trough reaches northeastward the disturbance to end near 25N154E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near these features from south of Guam to south of Minami Tori Shima within 280 miles of a line from 8N145E to 20N155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms continue northeastward to east of Minami Tori Shima within 100 miles of a line from 20N155E to 25N159E. Converging trades are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae state and Majuro, Butaritari and Tarawa atolls south of a line from 8N163E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
8:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:54 AM	5:40 PM
Tuesday	5:41 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	7:30 PM
Thursday	7:17 AM	8:24 PM
Friday	8:07 AM	9:16 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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'Far out' 36th anniversary party for Mariana Resort

Mariana Resort & Spa turned back the hands of time with a "far out" 36th anniversary party celebration Saturday night at the Marpi landmark.

About 300 guests attended the 1970s retro-themed party that Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh said reflected the hotel's history, having been built in 1978.

Guest had their fill with over 20 different buffet food choices as well as all-you-can drink beer, wine, champagne, and soft drinks. Wait staff and Mariana Resort executives, including Cavanagh, also were dressed to the nines in *Saturday Night Fever* garb.

The Saipan Music and Dance Studio and 2013 CNMI Got Talent Governor's Choice Award winner Bernice Shane Sabino provided the entertainment.

Sabino sang Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*, while Saipan Music and Dance Studio shimmied on stage with several disco hits from the 1970s.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos congratulated the hotel for 36 years of existence on the islands. He also said that Mariana Resort is "truly a pioneer for the CNMI" and is now the only hotel fully owned by Japanese investors in the CNMI.

"We need to support and welcome our Japanese friends, because through tough times, they haven't left and up until now they are still here," he said.

Cavanagh said the turnout was successful. "I couldn't be happier and it's in celebration of the Kitami family purchasing shares for Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. in 1978."

Kan Pacific Saipan president Yoshihiro Kitami said his father and uncle started the business and that he will continue to further improve Mariana Resort.

"My family were the first investors that rose in the CNMI and we want to continue. We started since the beginning and never changed the ownership and the Kitami family belongs to Saipan," Kitami said.

"Saipan has been our home for the last 36 years and we look forward to the next 36," he added.

"The dedication and the loyalty of the Kitami family has always set Mariana Resort apart from other hotels on Saipan. In fact, we're the only Japanese company that has never left. We've been here during good times, bad times, and the worse times and they never at any point in time thought about selling the place. This is their home," Cavanagh added.

"We've been here for 36 years and we know how it was when JAL [Japan Airlines] pulled out and when the government factories closed. We did not leave and the Kitami family stayed up till now," she said.

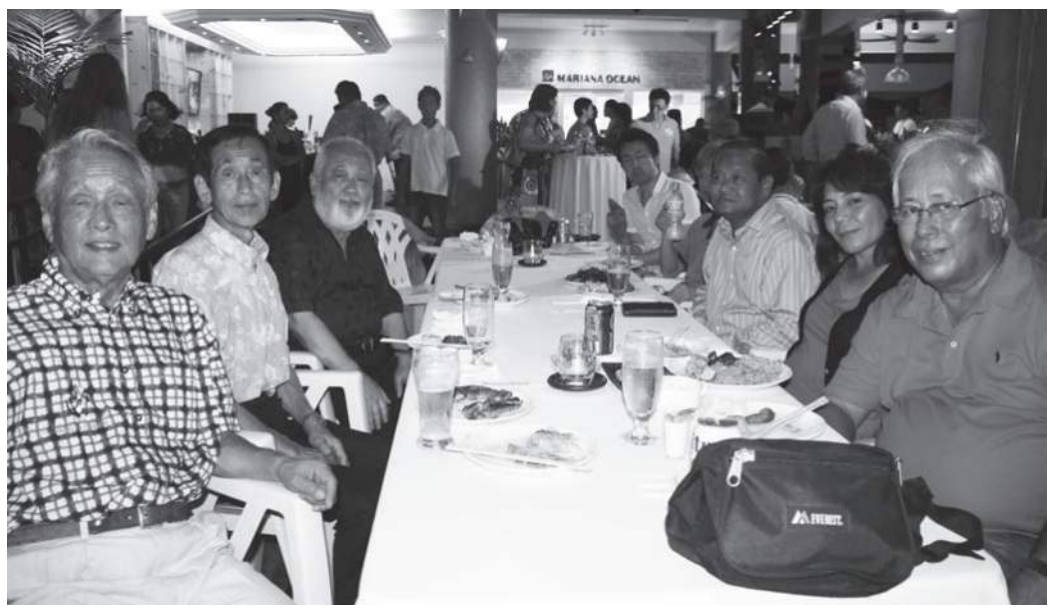
The 36th anniversary celebration gave away raffle prizes to guests and also those who competed in a golf tournament that day. The latter saw more than a hundred golfers play the 18-hole golf course of Mariana Resort. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

MARK RABAGO

Martin Ada, chairman of the Marianas Public Land Trust board, left, and Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), attend the Mariana Resort & Spa's 36th anniversary party.

MARK RABAGO

Captain Guillermo Faller, left, and wife Jane Faller with guests, and far right, golfer Rene Batallones pose for *Saipan Tribune.*



JAYSON CAMACHO

Japanese guests/past managers of Mariana Resort (left) with Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) and wife Glenna Palacios and Gov. Eloy S. Inos share a table at the Mariana Resort & Spa's 36th anniversary party.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Guests are treated to an open bar at the Mariana Resort & Spa's 36th anniversary party.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Department of Public Safety officer and golfer Carl Hocog and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) join Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), his wife Joy Yumul, and another guest.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Triple J Wholesale general manager Jay Santos and former representative Clyde Norita are joined by other guests at the Mariana Resort & Spa.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Pacific Islands Club's executive assistant Vicky Benavente, her husband and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, and former governor Juan Babauta join other guests at the Mariana Resort & Spa's 36th anniversary party.

Flame Tree Festival draws thousands

The 33rd Annual Flame Tree Festival over the weekend drew thousands of community members and off-island guests in a celebration of the islands' culture and traditions.

The festivities started Friday night and lasted through Sunday night, featuring varied entertainment, performances, 12 food vendors, and 60 booths displaying art and other cultural items.

This year's celebration was dedicated to Cris Matagolai Kaipat, Vicente Salas Sablan, Herman Delos Reyes Kapileo, and Shawnda Dela Cruz Taisacan—all of whom played a significant role in ensuring that the CNMI's cultural and artistic heritage is both strengthened and perpetuated.

The families of Kaipat, Sablan, Kapileo, and Taisacan received certificates of dedication during the opening ceremony on Saturday morning that was attended by delegations from Rota, Tinian, Guam, and Southern California as well as Flame Tree Festival sponsors and government officials.

In his remarks, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that "for over three decades, despite many challenges thrown its way, this festival has been and continues to be the premiere avenue to promote, preserve, and perpetuate our cultures, and provide a forum to showcase the unique aspects of our identity as islanders."

Inos also congratulated the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, the festival's committee, participants, sponsors, and organizers.

"Our arts, crafts, songs, and dances are fine gifts that have been handed down through generations to preserve our rich history and culture, and we are grateful for your work in keeping them alive and urge you to continue supporting this fine tradition in the years ahead," Inos said.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura T. Ogumoro, for her part, urged the public to "stay and experience the endless support and contributions of our sponsors and donors."

"In helping to promote our traditions, arts, and culture, the community and sponsors continue to be a source of inspiration for us," she added.

Parker Yobei, overall chair of the festival committee, expressed appreciation to the festival sponsors, volunteers, and the public for their "overwhelming support."

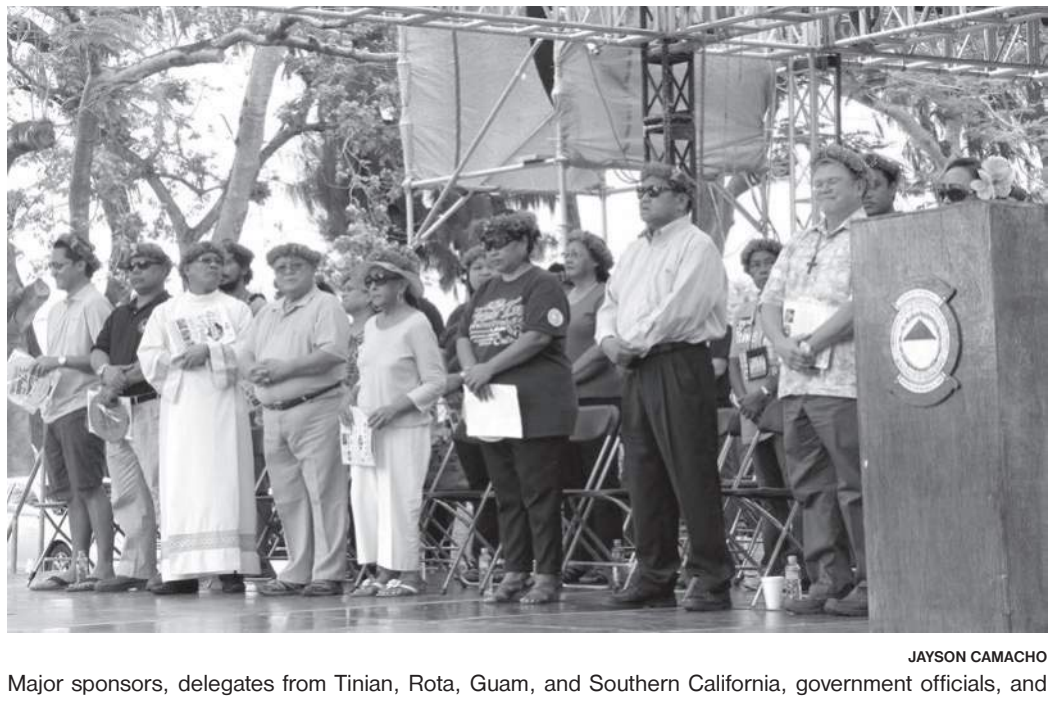
"It feels really great seeing all the community, volunteers, sponsors, and everyone else involved in this year's festival. It shows that we're doing our part by uniting different cultures through art forms," Yobei told *Saipan Tribune*.

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said the festival continues to grow into one of the largest annual events in the Micronesian region, showcasing unique cultures and the native delicacies of those who have taken residence in the Marianas.

"The festival has served to assist in the effort to promote the visual and performing arts and to preserve and perpetuate the traditional indigenous art forms...in the end its most significant quality is that it brings beauty to our daily lives," Hocog said.

Saturday's ceremony also recognized major festival sponsors, each one receiving a ukulele plaque as a token of appreciation. They are Delta Air Lines, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, IT&E, Marianas Visitors Authority, Bank of Guam, Matty's Barbeque & Catering Store, Canton Restaurant, Mobil, Coca-Cola, Pacific Development Inc., CNMI Energy Division, and KKMP.

The festival throughout the weekend featured entertainment from the Umang Glee Club, Keynotes Music, Saipan Awaodori Team, Black Sands, Taekwondo Blue Dragon, MHS (Poksai Guma Chamorro), Saipan Southern Warriors, the *man'amko* of the Aging Center, Kristo Rai Church choirs, Baby PJ, Guam's Ginen I Hila' I Maga Taotao Siha, San Diego delegation, Rota's Gilitai traditional dancers, Rota's New Boyz and Dem Ladiez, CAB Dancers, Tinatak Warriors, Guam's Taotao Lagu, Hopwood Junior High School, Ukulele Jammers, Pau Hinano, Uncle Ben's Music and Dance, Alana Ia, Glushko Academy, Reunion Te Kanahau Nui, Stellar Marianas (Ms. Marianas Teen), Hugs and Kisses, Project Blue, Maluw Band, Saipan Southern High "Chamoritas," Item Nine, Saipan Music and Dance School, Rose Dance School, the Yap community, Pacific Flower, Refaluwasch Warriors, Trunesian Breed Band, and Teivi Maori. ***(Jayson Camacho)***



JAYSON CAMACHO

Major sponsors, delegates from Tinian, Rota, Guam, and Southern California, government officials, and festival committee members stand in prayer for the opening ceremony of the 33rd Flame Tree Arts Festival.

JAYSON CAMACHO

The Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture staff and committee members pose at their informational booth at the 33rd Flame Tree Arts Festival.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Office on Aging *man'amko* perform at the 33rd Flame Tree Arts Festival.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Photographer Mike Ronesia poses with one of his underwater photos taken at Lao Lao Beach on Saipan.

JAYSON CAMACHO

A plaque of appreciation and dedication is presented to the family of Cris Matagolai Kaipat who was a performing artist and musician.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Sponsors, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and committee members present a plaque of appreciation and dedication to the family of Shawnda Lynn Dela Cruz Taisacan (performing artist).

JAYSON CAMACHO

Mobil employees smile for *Saipan Tribune* at their food booth on Saturday morning where they served hundreds of festival attendees.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Mr. Ashok and his daughter pose with one of their art pieces called "Tree of Life," which is said to bring good vibes to a home.

Artists color Flame Tree Arts Festival revelry

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Flame trees blossom on the streets of Saipan this time of year. At the same time dozens of artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota line the Civic Center Park in Susupe to celebrate the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the Commonwealth.

One artist, Sylvia Daguitan, sold hats, handbags, and fruit baskets made solely from newspapers. Her creations, called "Syl's Handicrafts," range in price from just $2 to $20.

"I first started making these as a hobby since 1990. I decided to come out here and showcase my work when people encouraged me to sell it and show interest," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Daguitan spends several late nights putting together the handicrafts that she said are not only fashionable but "green."

She and two other friends first made newspaper fans for the Christian Bible Fellowship church they attend and later created a more diverse set of products to sell to fundraise for the church's projector.

"When I found out that it was sellable and that a lot of people were interested, it motivated me even more to work on different designs and merchandise," she said. She noted that seeing her work being appreciated by hundreds of people at the festival was inspiring.

Daguitan does not have a shop just yet where she can sell her artwork but said she does plan to open one on Saipan very soon.

Another artist at the event, Tatiana Ilmov, takes the broken ceramic tiles from her husband's ceramic store on Saipan and puts them back together into unique works of art that she said was her dream for a very long time.

The mosaic artwork from ceramic tiles was the main attraction at her booth during the three-day festival. The mosaic sells for over $100. The couple, who also showed off their work at last year's festival, added this year some crochet toys and elegant vases, lamps, and plates that Ilmov says was inspired by her mother. She said it takes her up to two weeks to finish the mosaic artwork.

"This festival is a great opportunity to share our work with everyone in the community," she said. "The atmosphere here is amazing and it is so full of good emotions. We see that people like our work and it gives us the power to continue to create it."

The festival also featured the work of Ernie David and Greg Bacnis.

Bacnis was at the festival offering his sketching talent. The artist, who started his work at the age of 8, would do sketches of tourists and residents alike within 20 minutes. This was a favorite for spectators at the festival. Bacnis' work sells for $15 a sketch.

Fellow artists and business partner David showcased his hand-painted skinless leaf paintings. "I soak the leaves in water and a chemical solutions for two to three weeks. When the skin comes off I brush it off with a brush. That is when I begin hand painting them."

David brought images of Saipan and the ocean to life with the dead and dried leaves. He said his work is not only brought to life by the hues he carefully paints on them, but by the people who view them at the festival.

"Many people come here and are really interested to see what new art we have. It has been my longing to join this festival. It is a good chance to show my artwork and bring color and life to this event," David said.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Sylvia Daguitan presents some of her hats, handbags, and fruit baskets constructed solely from newspapers

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Ivan Ilmov, left, and his wife Tatiana pose for a photo with their mosaic artwork of a flame tree made from ceramic tiles. Ivan holds his wife's first work of art that she calls "Love."

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Greg Bacnis, left, and Ernie David showcase their work at their booth at the 33rd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Rota dance groups take part in festivities

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Rota dance groups and members of the Flame Tree Arts Council pose for a photo after performing their dance numbers at last weekend's 33rd Annual Flame Tree Art's Festival.

Three teams from Rota brought their dancing talent to the 33rd annual Flame Tree Festival over the weekend.

According to Rota vice chair for the Arts Council Shelwyn Taisican, this is the very first time for the delegation to send three dance groups to represent the southern island.

The groups—Gilita Dancers, New Boyz, and Dem Ladiez—brought to the Saipan stage cultural and modern dance numbers.

Taisican said that Rota is a melting pot of talented youth and having them perform at such a huge event "perpetuates their art and allows them to express themselves."

The dance groups consisted of 25 students in total.

New Boyz dancer Keanu Apatang said he was nervous at first to dance on stage in front of hundreds of residents and tourists. "I was nervous but I just used that energy to make me dance my best. I feel great and I want to come back next year and perform again."

Eighth-grade Rota student and Gilita dancer Marnecia Hocog said that her time on the festival's stage was "a good experience." "I enjoyed myself on stage and I am happy that we get to showcase our talents with different dances," she added.

Dem Ladiez dancer Mona Manglona expressed similar sentiments. She said, "It was not only a great feeling to dance on Saipan and showcase our talent but also to watch the other groups and learn from them."

Nineteen other delegates from Rota were also at the festival showcasing their artwork. This year's festival is considered by many as the largest cultural event in the CNMI.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Rota's Gilita dancers perform their cultural dance number to hundreds of tourists and locals at the Flame Tree Arts Festival.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Members of the New Boys dance group perform their contemporary dance number

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Members of the Dem Ladiez dance group are all smiles after their dance number.

Seven winners in MarPac's Easter Eggstravaganza promo

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eggstravaganza 2014 winner of the $250 shopping spree Ruth Calvo and her family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lilian Tudela wins a $100 shopping spree in MarPac's 2014 Easter Eggstravaganza Giveaway.

MarPac had its 2014 Easter Eggstravaganza Giveaway at 99 Cents Supermarket on Thursday, April 24, during which the company gave out 12 gift baskets, four $50 shopping spree, two $100 shopping spree, and the grand prize of one $250 shopping spree.

For this event, any customer who purchased Huggies, Scott, Glade, Raid, Surf, Fantastik, Enfamil, Sun, or Chocomilk at selected markets could turn in a receipt in the raffle box. MarPac drew out names from the tumbler and called the winners to come down to 99 Cents Supermarket to go Easter Egg Hunting at a mini pool. Each egg had a prize, so they had to search for one and open it right away to find out what prize they actually won.

The $250 shopping spree went to Ruth Calvo, while the two $100 shopping sprees were won by Lilian Tudela and Hazel Chong. The four $50 shopping sprees were won by Jeanette Borja, Berna Lotoc, Birdie Ann Maratita, and William Retardo.

According to a statement from the company, "it was an awesome afternoon and everyone enjoyed the prizes they won, loved the Choco Milk samples/tasting, and most especially loved our Huggies Elephant Mascot."

"MarPac would like to give a big thanks to everyone who supported our Eggstravaganza Giveaway and continues to support all our brands," the statement adds. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eggstravaganza 2014 winner Jeanette Borja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEDICAL BILLERS AND CODERS

The CNMI DOL Workforce Investment Agency Division continues to invest in building the CNMI's workforce talent. On April 8, 2014, a group of WIA participants successfully completed and passed the national certification exam as medical billers and coders and were handed their certifications on the same day at the Pacific Islands Club. CNMI DOL WIA Division, together with its training providers, Guam Marianas Training Center and Pinnacle Staffing, is proud and congratulates its participants and their families for their support in staying committed through the classroom training period and for finally claiming their titles as certified medical billers and coders.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another winner is presented with a gift pack.

Korean govt to sanction airline for violating flight safety rules

SEOUL (Yonhap)—Asiana Airlines Inc., South Korea's No. 2 flag carrier, will be reprimanded for violating flight safety regulations by flying for hours after discovering an engine problem, the government said Friday.

According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the pilots of Asiana flight OZ603 flying from Incheon International Airport to Saipan last Saturday did not follow the established precautions after a problem was found in one of its engines.

The twin-engine B767 passenger jet was carrying 253 passengers when a warning light came on about a hour after takeoff, indicating there was a blockage in one of its engine oil filters.

"The flight crew used the quick reference manual to try to solve the problem, but they were unable to shut off the alarm even after reducing power to the engine," a ministry official said. He said at this point, the pilots should have returned to Incheon or diverted to the nearest alternate airport, but they flew four more hours and eventually landed on Saipan using one engine.

On arrival, engineers on the ground discovered the filter clogged with metallic particles. It said the engine was changed due to abrasion damage, with a new unit flown out to the Pacific island from South Korea.

"The crew broke the rules, and the matter will be dealt with in a firm manner," the official stressed.

He said a final verdict will be made by the 47-person flight safety committee made up of government officials and civilian experts that will be convened in due course.

Violating safety rules can result in the grounding of all pilots involved for 30 days and a ban on the airline servicing the route for up to seven days. The carrier can also be slapped with a 10 million won (US$9,630) fine.

The ministry said it will check Asiana's maintenance procedures and how pilots, service personnel and the flight management teams communicate with each other and make decisions.

It said depending on the results of these findings, additional action can be taken.

Asiana said it accepted the reprimand and will offer full assistance to any investigation.

"We accept responsibility and will do our utmost to ensure the safety of all our flights," a company insider said. He added that the pilots that flew the B767 will be grounded pending a final ruling by the safety committee.

The latest development follows the crash landing of Asiana B777 at San Francisco International Airport in July that resulted in the death of three passengers.

The investigation in still ongoing, but Asiana has already admitted that the pilots were partially responsible for the fatal accident.

Business

A fading middle-class perk: lower mortgage rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—For three decades, the U.S. middle class enjoyed a rare financial advantage over the wealthy: lower mortgage rates.

Now, even that perk is fading away.

Most ordinary homebuyers are paying the same or higher rates than the fortunate few who can afford much more.

Rates for a conventional 30-year fixed mortgage are averaging 4.48 percent, according to Bankrate. For "jumbo" mortgages—those above $417,000 in much of the country—the average is 4.47 percent.

This trend reflects the widening wealth gap between the richest Americans and everyone else. Bankers now view jumbo borrowers as safer and shrewder bets even though conventional borrowers put less capital at risk.

Even as the overall U.S. housing recovery has slowed, sales of homes above $1 million have surged in the past year. Price gains have been so great in some areas that middle-class buyers are straining to afford even modest homes. They're also facing tighter lending rules, larger down-payment requirements and a shortage of houses for sale.

Used to be, rates for conventional mortgages would be 0.2 to 0.3 of a point below rates on jumbo mortgages. A decade ago, a conventional rate averaged 5.68 percent, a jumbo 5.97 percent. The advantage for middle-class borrowers was possible in part because government-chartered firms guarantee that lenders will be paid on a conventional mortgage even if a borrower defaults. No such guarantee exists for jumbos.

Two factors have caused the spread between conventional and jumbo rates to vanish:

■ The government in 2012 began raising the fees it charges lenders for guaranteeing payments on conventional mortgages. Lenders passed along that increase to borrowers in the form of higher rates. The fees are meant to stop home buyers from once again borrowing more than they can afford—a trend that fueled the 2007 housing bust.

■ Bankers say they've begun using mortgage rates to woo high-net-worth clients: Attractive rates on jumbos have become a way to secure additional business from those clients—from managing their investments to supplying a broad suite of financial services. What's more, those borrowers tend to be clustered in neighborhoods that lenders consider more stable.

"Jumbo borrowers represent the holy grail of what financial institutions are pursuing: that much-desired, mass affluent consumer," said Greg McBride, a senior analyst at Bankrate.

In the first three months of 2014, 37 percent of the money Bank of America lent for mortgages went to jumbos, compared with 22 percent at the same point last year.

The lower rates are geared for affluent borrowers living in "sweet spots" with strong employment and stable home prices—areas like metro New York City, Boston and sections of California, said Matt Vernon, who leads consumer mortgage lending at Bank of America.

"We're lending where we believe home ownership is sustainable," Vernon said.

Wells Fargo offers jumbos starting at 4.25 percent, about 0.25 point lower than for conventional mortgages. This month, Wells trumpeted the spillover benefits of increased jumbo lending: A 14 percent year-over-year increase in loans from its separate "wealth, brokerage and retirement" division.

"Hopefully, it'll continue to go up," Wells' CFO, Timothy Sloan, said of prospects for continued jumbo lending.

Congress returns to work to do the bare minimum

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress gets back to work Monday after a two-week vacation, and it's looking like lawmakers will do what they do best: the bare minimum.

Forget immigration, a tax overhaul, stiffer gun checks. They're all DOA.

Raising the minimum wage or restoring lost unemployment benefits? Not going to happen. Forcing government approval of the Keystone XL pipeline? Veto bait.

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is again encouraging Congress to pass a bill raising the minimum raise to $10.10 an hour.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama says increasing the pay for minimum-wage workers would help 28 million workers. He says Republican lawmakers not only don't want to increase the minimum wage, some want to get rid of it entirely.

In a dig at Republicans in Congress, Obama says they have taken more than 50 votes against his health care law but resist one vote on the minimum wage bill.

In the Republican address, House Speaker John Boehner says the federal government needs to get out of the way as small businesses try to plan for the future.

Boehner says House Republicans are pursuing economic initiatives that put jobs first.

■■■

The only things likely to become law in a Congress bitterly divided between House Republicans and the Democratic-led Senate are those that simply have to pass, such as a measure to avoid a government shutdown.

That's a short, short list.

It gets even shorter if you leave off things that can wait until a postelection lame-duck session.

Atop the list is a short-term spending bill to keep the government running past the Oct. 1 start of the new budget year. Votes on the bill aren't needed until September.

After stumbling into a politically costly partial government shutdown last fall, Republicans won't let it happen again, especially with an election just around the corner. This year's measure should be no problem.

Much more difficult, however, is the second main item of must-do business: finding more money for the Highway Trust Fund to keep road and bridge construction projects afloat. The fund is running critically low on cash. The administration says that could mean a slowdown in construction projects this summer and fall when lawmakers are back home asking voters to return them to Washington for another term. The current highway bill expires at the end of September.

"The number of (must-do) items is small," said GOP lobbyist Hazen Marshall of the Nickles Group. "But the degree of difficulty, particularly for the highway bill, is very high."

Top lawmakers and the administration all say they want to pass a multiyear highway and transit funding bill. Most Capitol Hill watchers think a temporary extension of funding is far more likely. That's still complicated.

Lawmakers will have to agree on perhaps $10 billion to $15 billion in funding to cover expected trust fund shortfalls. Optimally, Congress would act before its August vacation.

Passing those two bills is probably all that has to happen before Election Day. Congress has taken care of must-do legislation to increase the debt limit and fix Medicare's flawed payment formula.

So what will Congress do for the next few months? Not much.

There will be efforts to get the troubled appropriations process back on track in the aftermath of last year's shutdown and modest follow-up budget bargain.

Nation

School stabbing suspect is under psych evaluation

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A teenager charged with stabbing a fellow high school student to death on the day of their junior prom is being held in a hospital under psychiatric evaluation where he will likely remain for two weeks, one of his attorneys said Saturday.

The name of the 16-year-old suspect was not officially released but people who saw him taken into custody identified him as Chris Plaskon, a friend of the victim's and an athlete described as genial and respectful.

Plaskon is accused of stabbing to death Maren Sanchez, 16, in the hallway of Jonathan Law High School in Milford. The attack occurred Friday morning, hours before the school's junior prom, and authorities were investigating whether Sanchez was stabbed after turning down his invitation to the dance.

The suspect, who is charged as a juvenile offender, will not appear at an arraignment scheduled for Monday in New Haven, attorney Richard Meehan said. The hospital commitment can last for up to 15 days, according to Meehan. He said doctors typically order such involuntary commitments in cases where someone in custody is considered a danger to himself.

AP

This undated image of Maren Sanchez provided by her family is from Maren Sanchez's Facebook page.

Meehan said the suspect's family is also reeling from the attack.

"His family is devastated not only for him, but the youngster who was killed. It's a terrible situation all the way around," Meehan said.

His client is expected to be charged as an adult, but he would need to appear in court for that to happen, Meehan said. State's Attorney Kevin Lawlor said several factors go into that decision, including the seriousness of the charges.

Mark Robinson, a technical education teacher, said he was walking into the high school Friday when he saw Plaskon being taken out in handcuffs. He said Plaskon, the third of five brothers, was on football teams that he coached when Plaskon was a freshman and sophomore. He said Plaskon has a good sense of humor and the family has deep roots in the community.

"There's no reason to suspect he would have done this. I think that's what makes it harder," Robinson said.

Imani Langston, a student who saw Plaskon being read his rights and taken away in a police car, said he is known to be a class clown and had never been violent.

Central US bracing for possible severe weather

By KRISTI EATON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The threat of severe weather across a section of the Midwest was diminishing Saturday, but forecasters were warning about more threats for Sunday.

The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said there was still a slight chance for severe thunderstorms with high winds and hail from Texas to South Dakota Saturday night. It said Sunday will possibly bring more powerful storms that could include tornadoes and even larger hail.

"I think the tornado risk for the rest of this evening and overnight is just about zero," meteorologist Scott Curl with the National Weather Service's Norman office said Saturday. "I mean, very, very low."

Curl said there could be "quite a bit" of severe weather on Sunday afternoon and into the evening.

The highest potential for severe weather on Sunday will be in Arkansas and portions of Oklahoma and Texas. A secondary threat area will be from eastern Nebraska into Iowa.

Multiple tornadoes packing winds of more than 111 mph damaged more than 200 homes on Friday in North Carolina. Sixteen people were taken to the emergency room when the storms passed through around 7:25 a.m. Friday, according to Beaufort County Emergency management Director John Pack.

In the central U.S., organizers of outdoor events have kept a watchful eye on weather conditions. Organizers with the Oklahoma City Marathon, set for Sunday, urged runners to be aware of the race day alert system intended to warn participants of impending bad weather. Three shelter locations have been picked to house runners and spectators if the stormy weather moves through.

ACROSS THE NATION

California woman accused of killing child at park

LIVERMORE, Calif. (AP)—A 23-year-old California woman was arrested Saturday on suspicion of murder after authorities say she stabbed her 1-year-old daughter to death after attempting suicide in a popular park. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office told the San Jose Mercury News that the woman and her daughter went alone to the Del Valle Regional Park in the afternoon. The 41,000-acre park is 10 miles south of Livermore, about 45 miles east of San Francisco. It was unclear when the stabbing happened or what type of weapon was used. The crime scene is near the Arroyo Dam and the Wente Golf Course.

Eastern NC tornadoes damage homes, injure a dozen

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. (AP)—Residents, meteorologists and emergency officials in eastern North Carolina were surveying the damage Saturday from multiple tornadoes that damaged more than 200 homes the previous day and sent more than a dozen people to the emergency room. Meteorologists said Saturday that tornadoes with winds of more than 111 mph touched down in Pitt and Beaufort counties on Friday, and they were continuing to investigate storm damage. Elsewhere, Texas, Oklahoma and other states in the Plains and Midwest were bracing for severe storms expected to start Saturday and continue overnight. There, the main threat will be large hail and damaging wind gusts.

Hospice hosts teen's graduation so mom can attend

NEWARK, Ohio (AP)—A terminally ill woman with inoperable pancreatic cancer was able to see her 17-year-old daughter graduate from high school during a special ceremony held in her hospice room. Evie Shumaker was supposed to graduate from Newark Digital Academy in central Ohio on May 31. But when she told her teachers that her mom, 57-year-old Melissa Shumaker, had late-stage cancer, they decided to organize an impromptu graduation celebration Monday at Licking Memorial Hospital. The teen dressed in a cap and gown, "Pomp and Circumstance" played on a cellphone and Shumaker saw school officials hand her daughter a diploma.

Asia

SKorean PM offers to resign over ferry sinking

JINDO, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's prime minister offered to resign Sunday over the government's handling of a deadly ferry sinking, blaming "deep-rooted evils" in society for a tragedy that has left more than 300 people dead or missing and led to widespread shame, fury and finger-pointing.

The resignation offer comes amid rising indignation over claims by the victims' relatives that the government didn't do enough to rescue or protect their loved ones. Most of the missing and dead were high school students on a school trip. Officials have taken into custody all 15 people involved in navigating the ferry that sank April 16, and a prosecutor revealed that investigators were also looking into communications made as the ferry sank between a crew member and the company that owns the ship.

South Korean executive power is largely concentrated in the president, Park Geun-hye, so the resignation offer by Prime Minister Chung Hong-won appears to be symbolic. Min Kyung-wook, a presidential spokesman, told reporters that Park would review the offer and make a decision.

Chung was heckled by relatives and his car was blocked when he visited a shelter on an island near the site of the sinking a week ago. On Sunday, he issued an extraordinary statement to reporters in Seoul on the national tragedy.

AP

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won bows to the nation after offering his resignation at the Central Government Complex in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, April 27, 2014.

"As I saw grieving families suffering with the pain of losing their loved ones and the sadness and resentment of the public, I thought I should take all responsibility as prime minister," Chung said. "There have been so many varieties of irregularities that have continued in every corner of our society and practices that have gone wrong. I hope these deep-rooted evils get corrected this time and this kind of accident never happens again."

Meanwhile, senior prosecutor Yang Jung-jin said Sunday that two helmsmen and two members of the steering crew had been formally arrested. They join 11 other crew members, including the captain, in detention.

US, PH reach deal on troops

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United States and the Philippines have reached a 10-year pact that would allow a larger U.S. military presence in this Southeast Asian nation as it grapples with increasingly tense territorial disputes with China, according to two Philippine officials and a confidential government primer seen by The Associated Press on Sunday.

The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, which would give American forces temporary access to selected military camps and allow them to preposition fighter jets and ships, is due to be signed Monday at the Department of Defense in the Philippine capital, Manila, shortly before the arrival of President Barack Obama, the officials said. Obama's visit is the last leg of a four-country Asian tour that also took him to Japan, South Korea and Malaysia.

The two officials spoke with the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the pact ahead of its signing.

A Philippine government primer on the defense accord did not indicate how many additional U.S. troops would be deployed "on temporary and rotational basis," but it said that the number would depend on the scale of joint military activities to be held in Philippine camps.

Hundreds of American military personnel have already been deployed in the southern Philippines since 2002 to provide counterterrorism training and as advisers to Filipino soldiers, who have been battling Muslim militants for decades.

The Philippine Constitution bars permanent U.S. military bases. Under the agreement, a Filipino base commander would have access to entire areas to be shared with American forces, according to the primer.

Disagreements over Philippine access to designated U.S. areas within local camps had hampered the negotiations for the agreement last year.

The agreement would promote better coordination between U.S. and Filipino forces, boost the 120,000-strong Philippine military's capability to monitor and secure the country's territory and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.

"Pre-positioned materiel will allow for timely responses in the event of disasters - natural or otherwise," the primer said.

The presence of foreign troops is a sensitive issue in the Philippines, a former American colony.

Robot sub to extend search area for missing plane

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A robotic submarine scanning the Indian Ocean floor for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet will extend the area of its current search, which will end soon with no clues of the Boeing 777 found yet, authorities said Sunday.

The U.S. Navy's Bluefin 21 has been creating a three-dimensional sonar map of the ocean floor for more than two weeks near where signals consistent with airplane black boxes were heard on April 8.

The search area is a circle with a 10-kilometer (6-mile) radius, 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) deep off the west Australian coast.

The sub was expected to complete the focused underwater search area and continue examining the areas adjacent to it, the search coordination center said in a statement. The sub spends four hours traveling to and from the sea bed, and 16 hours searching the ocean floor. It takes another four hours to download data from each search.

Australian Defense Minister David Johnston said last week that an announcement was likely this week on the next phase of the search for the jetliner that vanished with 239 passengers and crew—mostly Chinese—on board on March 8 during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

He said the next phase was likely to deploy more powerful side-scan sonar equipment that can delve deeper than the Bluefin 21.

The search center headquartered in the Australian west coast city of Perth said a daily air search for debris northwest of Perth was suspended Sunday because of deteriorating weather.

World

Tymoshenko calls for NATO membership

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said that Ukraine "must be a member of NATO" in order to protect itself from Russian aggression.

Tymoshenko, who is running in the May 25 presidential election, told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday that while only a minority of Ukrainians supported NATO membership previously, Russia's aggressive actions in the country's east had forced a "fundamental change" in public thinking.

"With his war against us, Putin was able to change the mentality of Ukrainians and turn us in a different strategic direction," she said, referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "In this case, NATO is the best choice for Ukraine."

The 53-year-old Tymoshenko and her blonde-braided halo rode to office on a wave of pro-democratic sentiment after the 2004 Orange Revolution. But her ratings in the election polls remain low, as Ukrainians remain skeptical about her political leadership and her occasional cooperative dealings with Putin in the past.

Tymoshenko spent two-and-a-half years in prison after being jailed for abuse of office, charges the West say were politically motivated by former President Viktor Yanukovych, who fled office in February following months of street protests. Tymoshenko says she suffers from severe back pain, and gave a fiery speech to protesters upon her release from prison in a wheelchair.

But like many of her Ukrainian colleagues, Tymoshenko, who hasn't previously backed NATO membership publicly, has ramped up the tough rhetoric as pro-Russia militias have seized police stations and government buildings in at least 10 cities across eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine and some Western countries have accused Russia of using covert forces to spur unrest in Ukraine. Acting Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk warned on Friday that Russia "is keen to start World War III," though Tymoshenko shied away from that assessment.

"I don't believe he will launch a third world war," said Tymoshenko. "I think he is merely blackmailing the world, understanding that the world will not allow World War III, and under this cover he is pursuing unlawful and aggressive deeds."

Tymoshenko said she welcomed another round of sanctions on Russia, and hoped they would be "so powerful that Putin will stop his aggression and return to the territory of his own country."

The U.S. and other nations in the Group of Seven said in a joint statement released Friday by the White House that they planned an additional round of economic sanctions on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine.

St. Peter's overflows for historic day of 4 popes

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Tens of thousands of people filled St. Peter's Square on Sunday for a historic day of four popes, with Francis and Benedict XVI honoring their predecessors John XXIII and John Paul II and declaring them saints in the first ever canonization of two pontiffs.

Polish pilgrims carrying the red and white flags of John Paul's beloved homeland were among the first to press into the square well before sunrise, held back by human chains of neon-vested civil protection workers trying to maintain order.

Most of those who arrived first had camped out overnight on air mattresses and sleeping pads along the side streets leading to the square. Others hadn't slept at all and took part in the all-night prayer vigils hosted at a dozen churches in downtown Rome.

"Four popes in one ceremony is a fantastic thing to see and to be at, because it is history being written in our sight," marveled one of the visiting Poles, David Halfar. "It is wonderful to be a part in this and to live all of this."

The Vatican on Saturday ended weeks of speculation and confirmed that retired Pope Benedict, 87, would indeed participate in the canonization. The move sets a remarkable precedent for the 2,000-year-old Catholic Church, which has never seen a reigning and retired pope celebrating a public Mass together.

Benedict had promised to remain "hidden from the world" after resigning last year, but Francis has coaxed him out of retirement and urged him to take part in the public life of the church.

Sunday's canonization is the first time two popes have been declared saints at the same time. Francis' decision to canonize two of the 20th century's greatest spiritual leaders amounts to a delicate balancing act, giving both the conservative and progressive wings of the church a new saint.

John, who reigned from 1958-1963, is a hero to liberal Catholics for having convened the Second Vatican Council. The meetings brought the church into the modern era by allowing Mass to be celebrated in local languages rather than Latin and by encouraging greater dialogue with people of other faiths, particularly Jews.

During his quarter-century papacy from 1978-2005, John Paul helped topple communism in Poland through his support of the Solidarity movement. His globe-trotting papacy and launch of the wildly popular World Youth Days invigorated a new generation of Catholics, while his defense of core church teaching heartened conservatives after the turbulent 1960s.

WORLD BRIEFS

Abbas: Holocaust 'ugliest crime' of modern history

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called the Holocaust "the ugliest crime humanity has known in modern history." His comments, published Sunday by the Palestinian official news agency WAFA, marked a rare acknowledgment by an Arab leader of Jewish suffering during the Nazi genocide. Some 6 million Jews perished in the Holocaust. Abbas' comments were published just hours before Israel's annual memorial for Holocaust victims.

Sanctions loom as observers held in east Ukraine

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine (AP)—As Western governments vowed to impose more sanctions against Russia and its supporters in eastern Ukraine, a group of foreign military observers remained in captivity Saturday accused of being NATO spies by a pro-Russian insurgency. The German-led, eight-member team was traveling under the auspices of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe when they were detained Friday. Vyacheslav Ponomarev, the self-proclaimed "people's mayor" of Slovyansk, described the detained observers as "captives" and said that they were officers from NATO member states. "As we found maps on them containing information about the location of our checkpoints, we get the impression that they are officers carrying out a certain spying mission," Ponomarev said, adding they could be released in exchange for jailed pro-Russian activists.

Health & Fitness

Measles off to a fast start, as cases trend up

NEW YORK (AP)—Health officials are worried about recent U.S. measles outbreaks that so far have caused more illnesses than at the same point of any year since 1996.

Authorities say 129 cases in 13 states were reported by mid-April, the bulk of them in California and New York City. Most were triggered by travelers who caught the virus abroad and spread it in the United States among unvaccinated people. Many of the travelers had been to the Philippines, where a recent measles epidemic has caused at least 20,000 illnesses.

The U.S. numbers remain relatively tiny, but officials are worried to see case counts growing.

Since 2000, the highly contagious disease has been considered eliminated in the United States, aside from occasional small outbreaks sparked by overseas travelers. For most of the last decade, the nation was seeing only about 60 cases a year.

But since 2010, the average has been nearly 160.

"This increase in cases may be a `new normal,' unfortunately," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Contributing to the problem: Decades of measles vaccination campaigns have been so successful that many doctors have never seen a case, don't realize how contagious it is, and may not take necessary steps to stop it from spreading.

Among the 58 cases reported from California, at least 11 were infected in doctor's offices, hospitals or other health-care settings, according to a report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New York City health officials say two of their 26 cases were infected in medical facilities.

"It's a shock to younger physicians that their own waiting room or emergency room is where people can get measles," said the CDC's Dr. Anne Schuchat.

Also on Thursday, a medical journal—the Annals of Internal Medicine—released a commentary warning doctors to prevent that kind of situation.

"We must ensure that our facilities do not become centers for secondary measles transmission," wrote Dr. Julia Shaklee Sammons, an infectious disease specialist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

She urged doctors who suspect a measles case to place the patient in an isolation room with special ventilation that keeps the air from circulating around the building. Doctors and nurses should also wear surgical masks or respirators to protect themselves from getting infected, and to ask the infected patient to wear a surgical mask too.

The measles virus spreads easily through the air, and in closed rooms. Infected droplets can linger for up to two hours after the sick person leaves.

It causes a fever, runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body. In rare cases, measles can be deadly, and is particularly dangerous for children. Infection can also cause pregnant women to have a miscarriage or premature birth.

Before a vaccine became available about 50 years ago, nearly all children got measles by their 15th birthday. In those days, nearly 500 Americans died from measles each year.

A bad resurgence of measles hit the nation in 1989 to 1991, when 55,000 cases were reported. That flood of cases was blamed on a widespread failure to vaccinate uninsured children.

In reaction, the federal government started a program in 1994 to pay for vaccines for kids who are uninsured, in the Medicaid program, or meet other criteria.

In a report released Thursday, CDC officials estimated that the program and other childhood vaccination efforts will prevent 322 million illnesses and 732,000 premature deaths over the course of the lifetimes of children born in the years 1994 through 2013.

Wrapped into that estimate are 71 million measles cases, nearly 9 million measles hospitalizations and 57,000 measles deaths.

There has been no measles deaths reported in the U.S. since 2003. "But the way we're going, we feel it (another) is inevitable," Schuchat said.

Today, the measles vaccination rate is above 95 percent for children of kindergarten age. But there has been a small but growing trend of parents seeking exemptions for their children from school-entry vaccination requirements for religious or philosophical reasons. Other parents have tried to space out, or delay, measles vaccinations because of fears that the shot will trigger autism or other problems.

Coffee lovers: Drink up to reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes

By DEBORAH NETBURN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—To reduce your risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, new research from Harvard University scientists offers an eye-opening suggestion: Drink more coffee.

In a large epidemiological study, the researchers found that people who increased their coffee consumption by at least one cup per day over a period of years were 11 percent less likely to get Type 2 diabetes compared with people whose coffee-drinking habits didn't change.

On the flip side, people who dialed back their coffee habit by at least one cup a day were 17 percent more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes.

The study was published Thursday in Diabetologia, the journal of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes. Previous studies have found a correlation between coffee consumption and a lowered risk of Type 2 diabetes, but this was the first study to look at how changes in coffee consumption affect that risk.

"Coffee is pretty fascinating," said Shilpa Bhupathiraju, a nutritional epidemiologist at the Harvard School of Public Health and the lead author of the paper. "It seems to be associated with a lower risk for many chronic diseases."

The findings in this study are based on statistical analysis of three long-term and large-scale studies that tracked the diet, lifestyle and medical conditions of more than 120,000 medical professionals over the course of 20 years.

Previous work has shown that chemical compounds in coffee, not the caffeine, are likely responsible for the association between coffee drinking and lower risk of Type 2 diabetes.

DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Start the day with a leisurely cup of coffee.

"We know that phenolic compounds in coffee improves glucose metabolism in animal models," Bhupathiraju said. "Coffee is also a really good source of magnesium, which has been associated with a lower risk of Type 2 diabetes."

If that is the case, drinking more uncaffeinated coffee should be just as effective as drinking more caffeinated coffee in lowering the risk of Type 2 diabetes. In this study, the researchers found that changes in decaffeinated coffee consumption had no statistical effect on risk. That may be because not enough participants made a major change in their decaf coffee drinking, the authors note.

But before you run out to refill your Starbucks card, keep in mind that increasing the amount of coffee you drink is just one part of keeping Type 2 diabetes at bay.

"You can't get at causality with these studies," Bhupathiraju said. "You need a healthy body weight, a good diet and a healthy lifestyle. Coffee consumption in the context of all this is associated with a lower risk."

However, she said that as long as coffee doesn't make you jittery or keep you from sleeping, there's no reason you shouldn't drink up.

Saudi Arabia reports 2 more deaths from MERS virus

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry says two more patients who contracted a potentially fatal Middle East virus related to SARS have died as the kingdom detected nine new cases of the disease.

The ministry said in a statement on its website late Saturday that one Saudi man died in Riyadh and the other in Jiddah, bringing to 94 the number of people who have died of the disease since September 2012. The nine new cases were detected in Riyadh, Jiddah and Mecca, raising the number of cases to 323.

MERS belongs to the coronavirus family that includes the common cold and SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which caused some 800 deaths globally in 2003.

There is no vaccine or treatment for MERS. It is still unclear how it is transmitted.

Personal Trainer
Jump rope without boredom
Once you learn the basic technique, you can do an interesting, challenging variety of exercises with an ordinary jump rope.
• Look straight ahead
• Jump lightly on balls of feet
• Rope brushes floor lightly
• Elbows close to sides
• Clear rope by 1 in. (3 cm)
Jumping options
• Lift knees to waist level
• Alternate feet, lifting knees
• Half twist (only lower body turns)
• Jump forward, then back
• Shuffle feet forward one at a time; keep back straight
• Cross arms on every other jump
• Cross feet on alternating sides, a shoulder width apart
Source: Hyperformance Jumping
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
© 2014 MCT

Life & Style

Diggers find Atari's E.T. games in landfill

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP)—A decades-old urban legend was put to rest Saturday when workers for a documentary film production company recovered "E.T." Atari game cartridges from a heap of garbage buried deep in the New Mexico desert.

The "Atari grave" was, until that moment, a highly debated tale among gaming enthusiasts and other self-described geeks for 30 years. The story claimed that in its death throes, the video game company sent about a dozen truckloads of cartridges of what many call the worst video game ever to be forever hidden in a concrete-covered landfill in southeastern New Mexico.

AP

Film Director Zak Penn shows a box of a decades-old Atari 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial' game found in a dumpsite in Alamogordo, N.M., Saturday, April 26, 2014.

The search for the cartridges of a game that contributed to the demise of Atari will be featured in an upcoming documentary about the biggest video game company of the early `80s.

As a backhoe scattered a huge scoop of 30-year-old trash and dirt over the sand, the film crew spotted boxes and booklets carrying the Atari logo. Soon after, a game cartridge turned up, then another and another.

Film director Zak Penn showed assembled gaming fans one cartridge retrieved from the site and said that hundreds more were in the surrounding mounds of garbage.

About 200 residents and game enthusiasts gathered early Saturday at the old landfill in Alamogordo to watch crews search for up to a million discarded copies of "E.T. The Extraterrestrial" that the game's maker wanted to hide forever.

"I feel pretty relieved and psyched that they actually got to see something," Penn said as members of the production team sifted through the mounds of trash, pulling out boxes, games and other Atari products.

Most of the crowd left the landfill before the discovery, turned away by strong winds that kicked up massive clouds of dust mingled with garbage.

By the time the games were found, only a few dozen people remained. Some were playing the infamous game in a makeshift gaming den with a TV and an 1980s game console in the back of a van, while others took selfies beside a life-size E.T. doll inside a DeLorean car like the one that was turned into a time machine in the "Back To The Future" movies.

Among the watchers was Armando Ortega, a city official who as a teenager back in 1983 got a tip from a landfill employee about the massive dump of games.

"It was pitch dark here that night, but we came with our flashlights and found dozens of games," he said. They braved the darkness, coyotes and snakes of the desert landfill and had to sneak past the security guard. But it paid off as they found dozens of crushed but still playable cartridges.

The game's finding came as no surprise to James Heller, a former Atari manager who was invited by the production to the dig site. He says in 1983 the company tasked him with finding an inexpensive way to dispose of 728,000 cartridges they had in a warehouse in El Paso, Texas. After a few local kids ran into trouble for scavenging and the media started calling him about it, he decided to pour a layer of concrete over the games.

"I never heard about again it until June 2013, when I read an article about E.T. being excavated," he remembers. He was not aware of the controversy and never spoke out "because nobody asked."

The documentary about the search is being developed by companies including Xbox Entertainment Studios, and the film is expected to be released later this year on Microsoft's Xbox game consoles.

The city of Alamogordo agreed to give the documentarians up to 250 cartridges and plan to sell the rest that are unearthed.

Mayor Susie Galea hopes this brings more tourists to this southeastern New Mexico town that is home to an Air Force base and White Sands National Monument.

"Lots of people just pass through, unfortunately," she said.

The "E.T." game is among the factors blamed for the decline of Atari and the collapse in the U.S. of a multi-million-dollar video game industry that didn't bounce back for several years.

NYC eatery sued over plan to move Picasso painting

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's storied Four Seasons restaurant has for decades harbored one of the city's more unusual artworks: the largest Pablo Picasso painting in the United States. But a plan to move it has touched off a spat as sharply drawn as the bullfight crowd the canvas depicts.

Pitting a prominent preservation group against an art-loving real estate magnate, the dispute has unleashed an outcry from culture commentators and a lawsuit featuring dueling squads of art experts.

The building's owner says Picasso's "Le Tricorne," a 19-by-20-foot painted stage curtain, has to be moved from the restaurant to make way for repairs to the wall behind it.

But the Landmarks Conservancy, a nonprofit that owns the curtain, is suing to stop the move. The group says the wall damage isn't dire and taking down the brittle curtain could destroy it—and, with it, an integral aspect of the Four Seasons' landmarked interior.

"We're just trying to do our duty and trying to keep a lovely interior landmark intact," says Peg Breen, president of the conservancy.

The landlord, RFR Holding Corp., a company co-founded by state Council on the Arts Chairman Aby Rosen, says a structural necessity is being spun into an art crusade.

"This case is not about Picasso," RFR lawyer Andrew Kratenstein said in court papers. Rather, he wrote, it is about whether an art owner can insist that a private landlord hang a work indefinitely, the building's needs be damned. "The answer to that question is plainly no."

Picasso painted the curtain in 1919 as a set piece for "Le Tricorne," or "three-cornered hat," a ballet created by the Paris-based Ballet Russes troupe.

The curtain isn't considered a masterwork. Breen said it was appraised in 2008 at $1.6 million, far short of the record-setting $106.5 million sale of a 1932 Picasso painting at a 2010 auction.

Still, "it was always considered one of the major pieces of Picasso's theatrical decor," says Picasso biographer Sir John Richardson. "And it is sort of a gorgeous image."

The scene depicts spectators in elegant Spanish dress socializing and watching a boy sell pomegranates as horses drag a dead bull from the ring in the background.

"Le Tricorne" has been at the Four Seasons since its 1959 opening in the noted Seagram Building. The restaurant, which isn't affiliated with the Four Seasons hotel a few blocks away, is the epitome of New York power lunching, having served President Bill Clinton, Princess Diana, Madonna and other A-listers.

The curtain hangs in what's become known as "Picasso Alley," a corridor that joins the restaurant's majestically modern, Phillip Johnson-designed main dining rooms.

Some argue that the painting, donated to the Landmarks Conservancy in 2005, is a vital piece of the city's cultural landscape and the restaurant's lauded decor.

Architecture critic Paul Goldberger decried the curtain's potential move in Vanity Fair, saying the canvas helps make the Four Seasons "a complete work of art."

AP

In this Feb. 28, 2014, photo provided by the New York Landmarks Conservancy, a stage curtain painted by Pablo Picasso hangs on a wall at the Four Seasons restaurant in New York.

Noted architect Robert A.M. Stern and Lewis B. Cullman, an honorary trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, both sent Rosen letters asking him to reconsider removing the curtain. Arts critic Terry Teachout blasted the potential loss of "Picasso's most readily accessible painting" in The Wall Street Journal.

The landlords also have their defenders. In tony Town & Country, arts editor Kevin Conley cast the debate as a misplaced outpouring over a "second-rate Picasso."

The debate has opened an uncomfortable divide in the city's preservation circles. The Landmarks Conservancy honored Rosen in 2002 for restoring another important 1950s office building, Lever House, yet now publicly claims the major art collector dismissed the Picasso curtain as a "schmatte," a Yiddish word for "rag."

"They've elevated this into something that it shouldn't be. ... Everybody says I hate Picasso," Rosen lamented to The New York Times last month. `'But I live with five of them in my home."

Rosen, whose spokesman didn't return calls from The Associated Press, told The Times he aims to remove and restore the painting, then decide where it will go.

The controversy has drawn a stream of art students, history buffs and other sightseers to look at the canvas.

Steel guitar makes Hawaii think twice on the ukulele

HONOLULU (AP)—Sorry, ukulele. Hawaii won't spurn the steel guitar to sound its love for you.

Bills in the state Legislature that would've declared the friendly little guitar the official instrument of Hawaii both died near the end of the legislative session.

The measures easily passed the Senate and House earlier this year, but with differences that meant more debate. That's when steel guitar players stepped in, setting up a showdown between the state icons.

Alan Akaka, a music teacher with politics in his blood as the son of former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, orchestrated an email campaign arguing the instrument born in Hawaii better represents the state.

Unlike the ukulele, which descended from a little four-string guitar Portuguese immigrants brought to the islands in the late 1800s, the steel guitar's development is credited to an Oahu man named Joseph Kekuku. Its sound has spread throughout country, bluegrass and western music. Yet it still conjures in its dreamy, liquidy sound—made popular by such songs as Santo & Johnny's "Sleepwalk"—the feel of a Pacific sunset blushing behind swaying palms.

"I have nothing against the ukulele," said Akaka, who mimicked the steel guitar as a child by running the bell of his clarinet along the strings of his father's acoustic guitar. "But what is `pono,' what is right, is to have the instrument that was actually invented in Hawaii."

Akaka's efforts generated lots of testimony from around the state, as well as from other U.S. states and internationally.

In short order, the conversation shifted from the ukulele's unique position in Hawaiian music to a more complex exchange about identity and cultural value.

The bills that seemed so simple got tangled in conference committees that included lawmakers from each chamber. The Senate amended the House bill to kick the decision back to the state's kids, enlisting primary and secondary schoolchildren to suggest instruments to state lawmakers.

Rep. Mark Takai, D-Aiea, the chairman of the House side of the conference committee that considered the bill, said kids didn't deserve such sway.

"Why not send to them whether they want to change instructional hours?" he said. "Whether they support marriage equality? All these kinds of issues. I'm just trying to extend the logic of allowing kids to vote. It's problematic."

Takai said some senators pushed for other instruments, but there wasn't time to debate the merits of pahu drums or the ipu gourd.

Now, the debate of an official instrument must wait for a future session.

'Begin Again' film of firsts for Levine, Knightley

NEW YORK (AP)—For Keira Knightley and Adam Levine, their movie "Begin Again" was an experience of firsts.

Knightley, an accomplished actress, sings in the movie, whereas Levine, frontman of the band Maroon 5, acts.

The two admitted that leaving their comfort zones made them uneasy but that they related to each other's nerves.

"I kept telling her she was great and she wouldn't believe me, and she told me that I wasn't bad at acting either but I didn't believe her, so it was perfect," Levine said Saturday as the film closed the Tribeca Film Festival.

"I was completely terrified," Knightley, 29, emphasized of her singing.

"I didn't anticipate being as frightened as I was. I said yes to doing it and I was, `Oh, it's gonna be fine, it's gonna be fine,' and then suddenly I found myself in a studio with real people who did it for a living and I was like, `I don't know what I'm doing. I'm pretending.'"

To walk a red carpet for his first acting role, Levine, 35, said he was "blown away."

Levine says he enjoyed the experience so much he might have caught the acting bug.

"My experience was so much fun," he said. "It made me kind of start to like it a little bit, but I don't know. I don't think you can really make those bold declarations, but we'll see."

AP

Keira Knightley, left, and Adam Levine arrive at the premiere of "Begin Again" at the Tribeca Film Festival on Saturday, April 26, 2014, in New York.

So how did the two grade each other?

Knightley called Levine a "natural entertainer" who was "sensational in this film."

Levine, who serves as a judge and mentor on NBC's singing competition show "The Voice," said that if Knightley were to audition he would want her on his team.

"Begin Again," is directed by John Carney, who also was behind the successful musical drama "Once." It also stars Mark Ruffalo, Hailee Steinfeld and Catherine Keener. CeeLo Green also has a small role.

The movie opens in the U.S. in July.

Dutch party down at 'King's Day' for new monarch

AMSTERDAM (AP)—The Dutch donned orange-colored outfits and celebrated their first ever "King's Day" on Saturday—a national holiday held in honor of the Netherlands' newly installed monarch, King Willem Alexander.

The festival, which will last until the early hours of Sunday, features open-air markets and concerts around the country. With sunny weather forecast, more than 1 million people are expected to attend in Amsterdam alone.

King's Day replaces the traditional "Queens' Day" festival held this time of year, and the name change is the main difference. Willem Alexander, who assumed the throne last year, is the first male monarch from the Netherlands' ruling House of Orange in living memory.

"Why change something that's a success?" the king said in a speech in Amstelveen, which borders Amsterdam on the south, after proclaiming his day "unforgettable."

In a prerecorded message carried by national broadcaster NOS, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said "music and good times are everywhere: all the ingredients for a splendid day."

Earlier Saturday, Willem Alexander and his wife Queen Maxima visited the scenic village of De Rijp, 36 kilometers (22 miles) north of Amsterdam, together with their three daughters, Ariane, Alexia and heir apparent Amalia.

In Amsterdam, boats crammed the canals and people turned out in droves to sell bric-a-brac along sidewalks. In parks, kids set up do-it-yourself games like trying to jump and take a bite out of a cookie on a string—using no hands.

Police in the Sarphati park in the south of the city were seen ordering a hobbyist to stop flying a drone, apparently out of safety or privacy concerns.

Menzel, Iman, Danes honored for charity work

NEW YORK (AP)—Variety magazine feted Idina Menzel, Iman, Claire Danes and others Friday for their "Power of Women: New York" issue—but not for how much power they have, but how they wield it for good.

The women, along with Sarah Jessica Parker, Susan Sarandon and A&E President and CEO Nancy Dubac, were honored for their charitable work at a luncheon at ritzy Cipriani in Manhattan. It was hosted by designer Zac Posen and featured Katie Couric, Gayle King, Josh Groban and others paying tribute.

"The fact that we're here means we are really lucky ... so why do this?" said Sarandon after she was given an award for her support of the group Hope North, which provides an education for Ugandan children of war. "It feels really good to know you have done something."

The ceremony, sponsored by HTC One and FYIslo, A&E's new television network, was sometimes emotional, as the women talked about why they were moved to get involved. Iman, who works with the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation in her native Somalia, talked about how Abdi has helped provide medical attention, clean water and other basic necessities for people in need.

"It's amazing to me what has happened to my country. ... It was once peaceful, progressive, an admirable country," said the supermodel and businesswoman, who fled the war-torn nation decades ago. "There was nothing that women could not do. Today, they are not even allowed to drive a car."

Danes was honored for the work she does with the charity Afghan Hands, a literacy program for Afghani women; Dubac for her work with Project Rubicon/The Mission Continues, which aids military veterans; and Sarah Jessica Parker for her advocacy for the New York City Ballet.

Menzel was cited for her own foundation, A Broader-Way, which assists underprivileged young girls from urban communities. She read a heart-tugging essay by one of her students, but she also made the audience laugh after her introduction by good friend Groban.

"He got my name right!" she quipped, referencing John Travolta's now infamous mangling of her name at the Academy Awards earlier this year.

Willie Nelson inducted in Austin City Limits Hall

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—In this town, Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey takes a backseat to Willie Nelson.

The country music icon who has an Austin street named after him and is celebrated with an 8-foot bronze likeness downtown added another backyard honor with a spot in the inaugural class of the Austin City Limits Hall of Fame on Saturday night.

McConaughey, who last month won his first Academy Award for best actor in "Dallas Buyers Club," inducted his friend and fellow Texan with simplicity.

"There would be no Austin City Limits without Willie Nelson," McConaughey said.

Keeping the show rolling later, McConaughey slipped in his signature "All right, all right, all right"—a segue that felt at home in this city that was the backdrop to the 1993 film "Dazed and Confused" and began the actor's rise to stardom.

Nelson, who will celebrate his 81st birthday next week by receiving his fifth-degree black belt in martial arts, was the first Austin City Limits performer in 1974 on what is now the longest-running television music program in the U.S.

Fellow country icons Emmylou Harris and Lyle Lovett joined the "Red Headed Stranger" on stage for a string of hits including "On the Road Again" and "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die."

"It means a lot. It's Austin City Limits and Austin—the music capital of the world," Nelson said on his bus before the show.

Also inducted were Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble, longtime show producer Bill Arhos and former University of Texas football coach Darrell Royal, whose "pickin' parties" with guitar songwriters at his Austin home after games helped inspire the show.

Arhos recalled a friend's comment after one of the times when Nelson, who is famously open about his marijuana use, was busted for weed possession.

"He said, `That's like Wimpy getting busted for eating hamburgers,'" Arhos said.

Hobbit finale renamed 'Battle of the Five Armies'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Peter Jackson is tweaking the ending of Bilbo Baggins' journey.

The Oscar-winning director says the original title of "The Hobbit" finale, "There and Back Again," felt misplaced since Baggins arrived at his destination in the second film. He says that title better suited a movie that wrapped up a two-part story instead of a trilogy.

So the final film based on the J.R.R. Tolkien fantasy adventure has being renamed "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies."

Jackson wrote about the decision on Facebook, saying that making the films was sometimes like the hobbit's journey itself, "with hidden paths revealing their secrets to us as we've gone along."

He thought about revising the title when the second film opened last year, but said he and the studio, Warner Bros., kept an open mind until a cut of the film was ready. They watched it last week before agreeing on the new title.

The film stars Martin Freeman as Bilbo Baggins and Benedict Cumberbatch as Smaug the dragon.

Expected to be a box-office success like its predecessors, "The Battle of the Five Armies" will premiere in December.

Help to curb child abuse by learning its symptoms

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Child abuse is epidemic in the United States. It occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural levels, within all religions and at all levels of education. Every year, more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the U.S. Without intervention, about 30 percent of those abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children.

With the proper skills, all parents can raise happy, healthy children. Treatment is necessary, but our communities also need to do a better job at prevention.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Please ask your readers to learn about programs and activities in their communities that support parents and promote healthy families.

JOHN E. THORESEN, DIRECTOR, BARBARA SINATRA CHILDREN'S CENTER, RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIF.

DEAR MR. THORESEN: Thank you for your letter. Readers, the first step to curbing child abuse is recognizing it. These are the 10 most common indicators:

1. UNEXPLAINED INJURIES: Visible signs may include burns or bruises in the shape of objects. There may be unconvincing explanations for a child's injuries.

2. CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR: Abused children often appear scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn or more aggressive.

3. RETURNING TO EARLIER BEHAVIOR: Abused children may display behaviors shown when they were younger, such as thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, fear of the dark or strangers. For some, loss of basic language or memory problems may occur.

4. FEAR OF GOING HOME: Abused children may express fear or anxiety about leaving school or going places with the abuser.

5. CHANGES IN EATING: The stress, fear and anxiety lead to changes in a child's eating behaviors, which may result in weight gain or weight loss.

6. CHANGES IN SLEEP HABITS: The child may have frequent nightmares or have difficulty falling asleep, and appear tired or fatigued.

7. CHANGES IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OR ATTENDANCE: Children may demonstrate difficulty concentrating in school or experience excessive absences, sometimes because of adults trying to hide the children's injuries from authorities.

8. LACK OF PERSONAL CARE OR HYGIENE: The child may appear unkempt, be consistently dirty and have severe body odor, or lack sufficient clothing for the weather.

9. RISK-TAKING BEHAVIORS: The child may engage in high-risk activities such as using drugs or alcohol, or carrying a weapon.

10. INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: A sexually abused child may exhibit overly sexualized behavior or use explicit sexual language.

We can all support children and parents to reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect. Be a friend to a parent or child you know. Volunteer your time or donate to programs that support child abuse treatment and prevention as well as those that build healthy families. Trust your instincts. Suspected abuse is enough of a reason to contact authorities.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THERE GOES ROSALYN AROUND THE HOUSE AGAIN. SHE STILL DOESN'T KNOW YOU SNEAKED BACK INSIDE.
NOW I'LL CHANGE BACK INTO MY SECRET IDENTITY ALTER EGO!
UH OH. SHE SAW THE LIGHT ON IN THIS ROOM. SHE'S COMING IN!
QUICK! GET IN THE COVERS! PRETEND WE'VE JUST BEEN READING IN BED!
BUT SHE KNOWS YOU ATTACKED HER AND RAN OUTSIDE HALF AN HOUR AGO!
THAT WAS STUPENDOUS MAN, NOT MILD-MANNERED CALVIN! I'VE BEEN IN BED WITH MY PJs ON SINCE 8:00.
YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO BELIEVE THAT?
MY COVERS ARE HERE. MY PAJAMAS ARE HERE. IT'S AS PLAIN AS CAN BE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
READING THE COMICS.
CAN I HELP?
SURE! HOP ON UP.
OKAY. SO, WHERE WERE YOU?
I JUST FINISHED BEETLE BAILEY. IT WAS...
NO SPOILERS! NO SPOILERS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Soft drink flavor
5 Overweight
8 Evergreens of a sort
12 Verbal
13 Yale student
14 Way out
15 Prima donna
16 Madagascar resident
18 Andre of tennis
20 — l'oeil (optical illusion)
21 Movie gorilla
23 Roman 401
24 Ailments
28 Break suddenly
31 Lawyers' org.
32 Daisylike flower
34 Id counterpart
35 Trash
37 Misused word
39 Feline
41 Actress Hatcher
42 Met performances
45 Breakfast option
49 Saucy
51 Jason's ship
52 Greatly
53 One of the Stooges
54 Cravats
55 Memory method
56 Third party abbr.
57 Finishes

DOWN
1 Last few notes
2 First (Abbr.)
3 Volcanic outflow
4 49th state
5 Steinem's cause
6 Carte lead-in
7 Pinball no-no
8 "Zounds!"
9 San Francisco newspaper
10 Thin streak of smoke
11 Eyelid woe
17 Joan of —
19 1-Across, e.g.
22 Reach
24 Army rank (Abbr.)
25 — Dhabi
26 Guinevere's lover
27 Chosen
29 Past
30 Burst
33 Unusual
36 Martial art
38 Buccaneer
40 Spigot
42 Actor Sharif
43 — Alto, Calif.
44 Big rig
46 Ireland
47 On in years
48 Privation
50 Friend of Harry and Hermione

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	R	M		B	R	A	S		C	H	O	W
L	O	U		L	I	S	P		R	E	N	O
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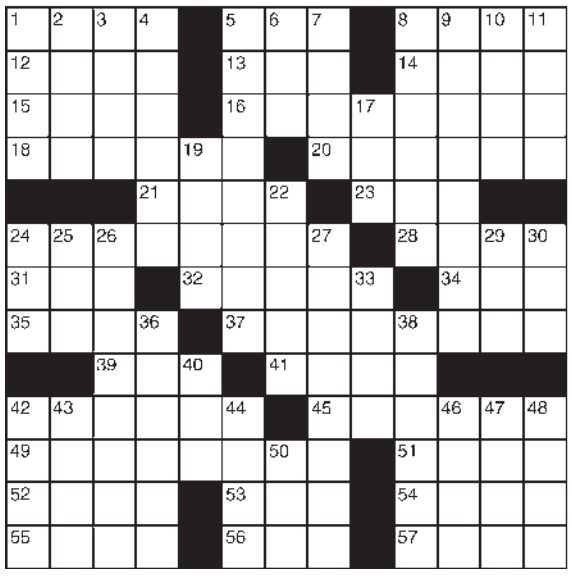
Z	A	N	E		N	E	E	D		M	E	T

Friday's answer 4-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Alba, 33; Penelope Cruz, 40; Jay Leno, 64; Ann-Margret, 73

Happy Birthday: Handle each situation that arises this year with confidence. A direct approach will help you source out your best options and prepare you to make critical alterations that will enable you to show how efficient and responsible you can be. Don't hide or step back when taking action will lead to opportunity and new adventures. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 28, 32, 39, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't feel the need to buy favors, attention or friendship. Overdoing it will be exactly what holds you back. Concentrate on being unique, creative and following your heart. Being true to who you are and those you love is all that's required. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotional matters will escalate quickly if you aren't careful. Choose your words carefully and authorize only what you feel is necessary and within your capabilities. The process of eliminating what isn't a top priority will help you focus on what's important. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take action and be thorough. False information will weigh heavily on the results you get. Take the time to find out what you need to know before you make a decision that can have a lasting effect. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Check out the pros and cons of a situation. You can offer help, but don't make a donation you cannot afford. Your time and effort will be what counts. Consistency will help you get things done and give you the recognition you deserve. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Uncertainties regarding work or status will arise. Concentrate on different ways you can use your expertise. Defend your position, values and plans. Concentrate on getting as much done as possible without jeopardizing your long-term goals. Keep the peace. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Travel, learning and interacting with people from different backgrounds will help you advance. Use your intelligence and your imagination and you will attract both personal and professional interest. Love is in the stars and romance will improve your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Money matters will be a concern. Creative accounting will help you gain financial stability. Don't let anyone bully you into spending on something you don't need. A change in the way you feel about someone will alter the way you live. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Relationships should take top priority. Whether it is a business or personal partner, you are best to nurture what you have by suggesting innovative plans to pull you closer together and head in the same direction. Self-improvement will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful how you handle your personal life and your relationships. Problems will occur if you aren't honest about what you really want. Avoiding issues will only add to your discontentment. Make changes that suit your needs and help you achieve your goals. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Home improvement projects will also help you improve your domestic situation. Stick close to home and avoid being around unpredictable people. Use caution if you get involved in physical activities that stretch your abilities. Arguments are apparent. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your time and effort into raising your income. Whether you pick up a second job or apply for a position worth more monetarily, it is a good time for you to focus on improving your standard of living. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reconnect with old friends. Sharing your experiences and collaborating to reach a common goal will be beneficial and result in strong relationships that can lead to ongoing favors. Love is highlighted and rekindling an important relationship will lead to benefits. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dramatic, sensitive and stubborn. You are proactive, reliable and heroic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	1		9	4		
	1		4	7	6		8	
4								3
3	7						1	5
	8			2			9	
6	2						4	7
5								1
	3		8	6	2		5	
		2	7		1	6		

Difficulty Level ★ 4/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	1	4	9	3	5	2	6
2	9	6	5	1	8	3	4	7
4	3	5	2	6	7	9	1	8
7	8	3	9	4	5	2	6	1
5	4	2	6	8	1	7	3	9
6	1	9	7	3	2	4	8	5
9	2	4	8	5	6	1	7	3
3	5	8	1	7	4	6	9	2
1	6	7	3	2	9	8	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MICKEY ROONEY (1920-2014) **Solution: 9 letters**

G	M	N	A	S	S	T	R	I	K	E	S	J	S	N
E	A	A	W	D	H	T	Y	H	Y	L	E	O	L	C
R	R	R	R	O	T	G	E	D	A	U	V	N	A	O
A	T	I	D	G	T	E	U	P	R	Y	O	E	C	M
L	H	A	M	N	E	J	V	A	P	I	M	L	I	B
D	A	F	R	I	E	D	A	L	L	U	H	L	S	A
N	I	F	A	M	D	R	V	L	E	P	M	E	U	T
A	C	A	Y	N	S	S	A	S	E	V	B	N	M	E
B	O	Y	Z	R	S	T	U	S	Y	A	O	A	E	D
V	N	L	A	E	S	M	O	M	B	O	H	L	L	D
O	A	I	R	K	O	J	I	M	M	Y	B	C	A	Y
I	J	M	C	A	B	T	S	M	A	E	R	D	I	M
C	H	A	M	B	E	R	L	I	N	Y	R	R	N	M
E	L	F	I	L	M	T	H	E	O	D	O	R	E	I
B	C	A	R	O	L	Y	N	N	A	Y	L	L	E	K

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A Family Affair, Arms, Ava, Babes, Baker, Band, Black Stallion, Boss, Boys, Carolyn, Chamberlin, Combat, Crazy, Dreams, Elaine, Fans, Film, Gardner, Gerald, Icon, Jan, Jimmy, Jonelle, Joseph, Judy, Kelly Ann, Kerry, Kimmy, Lane, Laughs, Love, Marge, Martha, Michael, Midsummer, Moves, Muppets, Museum, Musicals, Strike, Teddy, Theodore, Tim, Town, Velvet, Voice, Yule

Last Friday's Answer: Desktop

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Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
The flagrance of war
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
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NBA probing alleged recording of Clippers owner

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Anger, frustration and calls for action echoed around the NBA on Saturday after an audio recording surfaced of a man identified as Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling telling his girlfriend not to bring black people to games.

Everybody except for the embattled Clippers owner, who has a decades-long history of alleged discrimination and offensive behavior, seemed to have a response.

The league said it was investigating the recording posted on TMZ's website, calling the comments "disturbing and offensive."

President Barack Obama, asked to respond at a news conference with Malaysia's prime minister during Obama's visit to the country Sunday, called the reported remarks "incredibly offensive racist statements."

"I don't think I have to interpret those statements for you, they kind of speak for themselves," Obama said. "When ignorant folks want to advertise their ignorance, you don't really have to do anything. You just let them talk. And that's what happened here."

Obama also expressed confidence the NBA would address the situation, and said the United States still wrestles with "the legacy of race and slavery and segregation."

"Obviously, the NBA is a league that is beloved by fans all across the country," Obama said. "It's got an awful lot of African-American players. It's steeped in African-American culture. And, I suspect that the NBA is going to be deeply concerned in resolving this."

Lakers Hall of Famer Magic Johnson, a target of Sterling's remarks, said he wouldn't attend Clippers games as long as Sterling was the owner. Miami Heat star LeBron James asked new NBA Commissioner Adam Silver to take aggressive measures, saying "there is no room for Donald Sterling in our league."

"Obviously, if the reports are true, it's unacceptable in our league," James said. "It doesn't matter, white, black or Hispanic—all across the races it's unacceptable. As the commissioner of our league, they have to make a stand. They have to be very aggressive with it. I don't know what it will be, but we can't have that in our league."

Silver spoke Saturday night in Memphis, Tenn., before the Grizzlies' game against Oklahoma City, repeating that the league finds the audio tape "disturbing and offensive" and that Sterling agreed to not attend the Clippers' game Sunday at Golden State.

"All members of the NBA family should be afforded due process and a fair opportunity to present their side of any controversy, which is why I'm not yet prepared to discuss any potential sanctions against Donald Sterling," Silver said. "We will, however, move extraordinarily quickly in our investigation."

Silver said the NBA needs to confirm authenticity of the audio tape and interview both Sterling and the woman in the recording. The Clippers will be back in Los Angeles for Game 5 on Tuesday night.

"We do hope to have this wrapped up in the next few days," Silver said.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said players discussed boycotting Game 4 of their first-round playoff series during a 45-minute team meeting but quickly decided against it.

"I think the biggest statement we can make as men, not as black men, as men, is to stick together and show how strong we are as a group," Rivers said. "Not splinter. Not walk. It's easy to protest. The protest will be in our play."

Clippers President Andy Roeser said in a statement that the team did not know if the tape is legitimate or has been altered. He said the woman on the tape, identified by TMZ as V. Stiviano, "is the defendant in a lawsuit brought by the Sterling family alleging that she embezzled more than $1.8 million, who told Mr. Sterling that she would `get even.'"

Roeser also said the recording does not reflect Sterling's beliefs. He added that Sterling is "upset and apologizes for sentiments attributed to him" about Johnson, whom he called Sterling's friend.

AP

In this photo taken on Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, right, and V. Stiviano, left, watch the Clippers play the Sacramento Kings during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

In the recording posted on TMZ, the man questions his girlfriend's association with minorities. TMZ reported Stiviano, who is of black and Mexican descent, posted a picture of herself with Johnson on Instagram—which has since been removed.

The man asked Stiviano not to broadcast her association with black people or bring black people to games. The man specifically mentioned Johnson on the recording, saying "don't bring him to my games, OK?"

"I will never go to a Clippers game again as long as Donald Sterling is the owner," Johnson responded on Twitter. He also said the alleged comments are "a black eye for the NBA" and said he felt bad that friends such as Rivers and Clippers point guard Chris Paul had to work for Sterling.

Paul released a statement through the players' union that said "this is a very serious issue which we will address aggressively." He also said Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, a former NBA All-Star guard who is the chairman of a search committee to find a new director for the union, would take a leading role to help players address the matter.

Paul and Clippers All-Star forward Blake Griffin declined further comment on the issue after the team's practice at the University of San Francisco. Other players were not made available as Rivers said he would speak for the team.

"A lot of guys voiced their opinions. None of them were happy about it," Rivers said. "This was a situation where we're trying to go after something very important for us, something that we've all dreamed about all our childhoods. Donald or anyone else had nothing to do with that dream, and we're not going to let anything get in the way of those dreams."

On TNT's halftime studio show Saturday, host Charles Barkley said "this is the first test of Adam Silver." He said Silver had to "suspend him and fine him immediately."

In Dallas, Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said "I have plenty of opinions, just not going to share them. He fended off several inquiries before saying: "Obviously, if any business or entrepreneur says or does things that aren't congruent with what the organization is trying to convey, that's a problem. But it's not my problem."

Warriors coach Mark Jackson, who played for the Clippers from 1992-94, said of Sterling's comments: "My feeling would be the same, no matter if I was coaching, playing or a fan. There's no place for it."

Jacky Johnson, a spokeswoman for the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, said the organization planned a protest outside Game 5 of the Clippers-Warriors series Tuesday night in Los Angeles.

Sterling, a real estate owner, bought the Clippers in 1981. He is the longest-tenured owner in the NBA since Lakers owner Jerry Buss died last year.

Sterling has been frequently criticized for his frugal operation of the Clippers, although in recent years he has spent heavily to add stars such as Paul and Rivers, who is in his first year as coach. Sterling also has been involved in several lawsuits over the years, including ones with accusations of discrimination.

In November 2009, Sterling agreed to pay $2.73 million to settle allegations by the government that he refused to rent apartments to Hispanics and blacks and to families with children. The Justice Department sued Sterling in August 2006 for allegations of housing discrimination in the Koreatown area of Los Angeles.

In March 2011, Sterling won a lawsuit against former Clippers general manager Elgin Baylor when a jury rejected the Hall of Famer's claim of age discrimination and harassment. Baylor, who was 76 at the time, had sought about $2 million after claiming he was forced out of the job he had held for 22 years. The team said Baylor left on his own and a jury awarded him nothing.

Sterling is a courtside fixture at Clippers home games. But he rarely visits the team's locker room at Staples Center, although he made an appearance in December 2012 after the Clippers won their 11th straight game, when he led an awkward locker room cheer.

Carter beats buzzer, sends Mavs past Spurs, 109-108

DALLAS (AP)—Vince Carter hit a double-pump 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Dallas Mavericks a 109-108 victory in Game 3 and a first-round series lead over the top-seeded San Antonio Spurs on Saturday.

Carter took an inbound pass from Jose Calderon with 1.7 seconds left in the left corner. After a quick pump fake in front of Manu Ginobili, Carter released the ball just before the buzzer. The winning shot was held up on review.

Ginobili had given the Spurs a 108-106 lead on a layup before Dallas called timeout to set up the play for Carter.

Monta Ellis kept the eight-seeded Mavericks close in the fourth quarter and finished with 29 points.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 22 points.

Game 4 is Monday night in Dallas.

Ginobili, who scored 12 points, dribbled out most of the last 24 seconds before going around Duncan and scoring over Samuel Dalembert. His go-ahead shot spun around the rim and almost came out before falling in.

Pacers 91, Hawks 88

In Atlanta, Paul George and David West hit key 3-pointers down the stretch, and the top-seeded Indiana evened the opening-round series at two wins apiece.

In a game they had to have, the Pacers finally showed some grit. George put the Pacers ahead 86-85 with a jumper beyond the arc, and West hit another trey with 1:33 remaining.

Atlanta had a chance after Kyle Korver was fouled in the corner and knocked down three free throws. But George pulled down an offensive rebound to set up George Hill's driving shot with 56 seconds left.

Pero Antic missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would've forced overtime.

Game 5 is Monday in Indianapolis.

George scored 24 points. Paul Millsap led the Hawks with 29.

Heat 98, Bobcats 85

In Charlotte, North Carolina, LeBron James had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and Miami defeated Charlotte to take a 3-0 lead in the series.

Dwyane Wade added 17 points for the Heat, who can close out the best-of-seven Monday night.

James, who was an efficient 10 of 18 from the field, pushed his record to 18-0 against the Bobcats since joining the Heat in 2010. Miami has won 19 straight overall against Charlotte.

Al Jefferson had 20 points for the Bobcats, who are still searching for the first postseason win in franchise history.

After trailing most of the first half, the Heat took a 42-40 lead on a 3-pointer by Mario Chalmers. Miami closed the half on a 16-4 run.

Thunder 92, Grizzlies 89, OT

In Memphis, Tennessee, reserve Reggie Jackson scored a personal playoff-best 32 points, and Oklahoma City tied up its Western Conference series at two games apiece.

Jackson had only scored 15 points combined in this series, but the guard shook off his shooting woes by hitting 11 of 16. He outscored Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, who struggled through their worst scoring game of the series. Durant was 5 of 21 for 15 points, while Westbrook was 6 of 24 for 15 points.

The Thunder blew a 14-point lead with Memphis, and the Grizzlies blew a third straight fourth-quarter lead themselves. Jackson tied up Memphis with five straight points in the final minute of regulation, and he hit all six free throws in overtime as the Thunder survived an extra period with seven lead changes.

Durant's two free throws with 1:02 left in overtime put the Thunder ahead to stay.

Game 5 is Tuesday night back in Oklahoma City.

Murphy, Betances lead Yankees over Angels

NEW YORK (AP)—John Ryan Murphy hit his first big league homer and drove in three runs, Dellin Betances earned his first win in the majors and the New York Yankees bounced back to beat the Los Angeles Angels 4-3 Saturday.

David Robertson posted his first save since coming off the disabled list. Mike Trout singled with one out in a nervy ninth and stole second, but Robertson retired Albert Pujols on a flyball and struck out Howie Kendrick to end it.

A day after the Angels homered four times in a 13-1 romp, they started strong when Trout hit a solo shot on the seventh pitch of the afternoon.

Murphy lined a two-out, two-run single in the second that gave the Yankees a 3-1 lead. The backup catcher then homered on the first pitch in the fifth, tagging Hector Santiago (0-4) for a 4-3 lead.

Betances (1-0) took over in the fifth for shaky starter Vidal Nuno and pitched two scoreless innings.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, A.J. Pierzynski hit his eighth career grand slam and Will Middlebrooks added a solo homer, powering Boston to the road win.

Jose Bautista and Juan Francisco hit solo home runs for the Blue Jays, who have lost a season-high four straight games.

Middlebrooks has five home runs and 10 extra base hits in 13 career games at Toronto's Rogers Centre. He had a three-homer game against the Blue Jays on April 7, 2013.

Clay Buchholz survived a shaky first inning to win for the first time in five starts this season. Buchholz (1-2) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings. Koji Uehara got four outs for his fifth save.

Blue Jays right-hander Brandon Morrow (1-2) issued a career-worst eight walks in 2 2-3 innings, allowing four runs without giving up a hit.

Twins 5, Tigers 3

In Minneapolis, Phil Hughes threw seven strong innings and Josmil Pinto hit his fifth homer, leading Minnesota to the victory.

Hughes (2-1) had six strikeouts with no walks. He retired 16 straight at one point and has won two straight — a welcome sight for a Twins rotation that had produced only six quality starts this season.

Jared Burton pitched a scoreless eighth and Glen Perkins worked the ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

Detroit led 2-0 before starter Anibal Sanchez left in the third with a blister on his middle finger on his throwing hand, forcing newly recalled Jose Ortega (0-1) into action.

Rays 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Cesar Ramos and two relievers combined for a five-hitter, leading the Tampa Bay Rays to a 4-0 win against the Chicago White Sox on Saturday night.

Ramos (1-1) pitched five innings of five-hit ball in place of Matt Moore, who had Tommy John surgery on Tuesday. Brandon Gomes then tossed three innings and Juan Carlos Oviedo finished.

James Loney had three hits for the Rays, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Ryan Hanigan hit a two-run double to give the Rays a 2-0 lead in the second after Loney singled and Logan Forsythe walked.

White Sox starter John Danks (2-1) struggled with his command and a high pitch count. He allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings. He struck out four, walked four and threw a career-high 123 pitches.

Orioles 3, Royals 2, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Nick Markakis singled in the winning run in the 10th inning after two throwing errors by pitcher Danny Duffy laid the groundwork for the Orioles' victory.

The Orioles went eight straight innings without scoring before facing Duffy, who had pitched 8 1-3 scoreless innings on the season.

After Duffy (1-1) hit Jonathan Schoop to begin the 10th, the left-hander threw wildly to second base after fielding a bunt by David Lough. Jemile Weeks followed with another bunt, and on this one Duffy's throw went high and wide to first, loading the bases.

Louis Coleman replaced Duffy and struck out Nelson Cruz before Markakis hit an opposite-field liner that landed inside the left-field foul line.

Astros 7, Athletics 6

In Houston, Dexter Fowler hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Houston's four-run eighth inning, and the Astros held on for the win.

Fowler also had a solo homer as Houston snapped a three-game losing streak. Chris Carter connected for a two-run shot in the second.

The game was tied at 3 when Fowler drove in Marwin Gonzalez with a base hit against Sean Doolittle (0-2). Jason Castro then singled in Jose Altuve, and Fowler and Castro eventually came home on groundouts.

Brandon Moss hit a three-run homer in the Oakland ninth against Jerome Williams (1-1). Nick Punto then singled, but Coco Crisp bounced into a fielder's choice and Raul Valdes struck out John Jaso and Jed Lowrie for his first save.

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Nationals 4, Padres 0

In Washington, Tanner Roark pitched a three-hitter for the first complete game of his career as the Washington Nationals beat the San Diego Padres.

Roark set down the first 16 batters before San Diego catcher Rene Rivera, an .074 batter entering the game, hit a solid single to center field with one out in the sixth inning.

Roark (2-0) walked one and struck out eight, including Jedd Gyorko to end the game on his 105th pitch. The 27-year-old right-hander extended his run of consecutive scoreless innings to 18, improved to 4-0 in his career at Nationals Park. In 35 innings there he has given up one earned run.

Ian Desmond had three hits for Washington, including a run-scoring double — the game's only extra-base hit — which highlighted a three-run first inning off losing pitcher Andrew Cashner (2-3).

Pirates 6, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Gaby Sanchez had two RBIs in a four-run fourth inning and Pittsburgh's bullpen worked seven strong innings after starter Francisco Liriano left with flu-like symptoms and dizziness in a victory over St. Louis.

Matt Holliday had an RBI double for the Cardinals, who have mustered five runs in their last six games. They got three hits and a run in seven innings off five Pittsburgh relievers.

Yadier Molina was a bust on his jersey giveaway day, striking out with the bases loaded to end the third against Stolmy Pimentel (2-0) and popping out with runners on second and third to end the fifth against Jared Hughes. He entered batting .431 during a 15-game hitting streak.

Giants 5, Indians 3

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence hit a two-run single in San Francisco's four-run fifth inning, leading the Giants over Cleveland.

Buster Posey added a solo homer in the sixth as San Francisco earned its third consecutive win. Posey, who won the NL MVP award in 2012, went 1 for 3 and is batting .103 (4 for 39) over his last 13 games.

Michael Bourn, Nick Swisher and David Murphy had two hits apiece for Cleveland, which blew a 3-0 lead. Jason Kipnis drove in two runs.

Indians right-hander Zach McAllister was in complete control before he got into trouble in the fifth. He needed just seven pitches to get through the third and seven more to retire the side in the fourth.

Braves 4, Reds 1

In Atlanta, rookie right-hander David Hale allowed only two hits over eight innings in a performance that may not be enough to save his spot in Atlanta's rotation and the Braves beat Cincinnati.

Freddie Freeman, Justin Upton and Evan Gattis each homered off Cincinnati's Mike Leake (2-2).

Hale gave up a walk and two hits, including Ryan Ludwick's run-scoring double, in the first inning. He didn't allow another hit as he faced the minimum 21 batters over the next seven innings.

Marlins 7, Mets 6, 10 innings

In New York, Jarrod Saltalamacchia homered leading off the 10th inning, Giancarlo Stanton also went deep and Miami rallied from four runs down to beat New York.

Stanton hit a two-run shot and Miami climbed out of a 5-1 hole with a five-run sixth capped by pinch-hitter Reed Johnson's two-run double. Stanton's seventh home run of the season gave him 29 RBIs, most in the majors.

Bobby Abreu hit his first major league homer since 2012 and Lucas Duda had a two-run single for the Mets, who had won three straight and five of six. New York was trying to move four games over .500 for the first time since July 14, 2012.

Mike Dunn (2-3) struck out four in two hitless innings and Steve Cishek earned his fifth save, one night after coughing up a ninth-inning lead for his first blown save since June 4, 2013. Cishek had converted a team-record 33 straight chances before Friday.

Brewers 5, Cubs 3

In Milwaukee, Jeff Bianchi had a two-run single, and Marco Estrada threw 7 2/3 strong innings to lead Milwaukee past Chicago.

Bianchi went 2 for 4, entering the game as a pinch-hitter in the first for Jean Segura, who was hit in the head in the dugout by a bat.

A TV replay showed the All-Star getting hit on the right side of the head during a warmup swing by teammate Ryan Braun, who was facing the field on the top steps of the dugout while Segura was coming up behind him.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 3

In Los Angeles, Adrian Gonzalez homered for the third straight game and Matt Kemp also went deep, leading Paul Maholm and the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-3 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Maholm (1-2) threw 84 pitches over seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits in his fourth start with the defending NL West champions. Chris Withrow struck out Carlos Gonzalez and Troy Tulowitzki with the bases loaded in the eighth inning to help preserve the win.

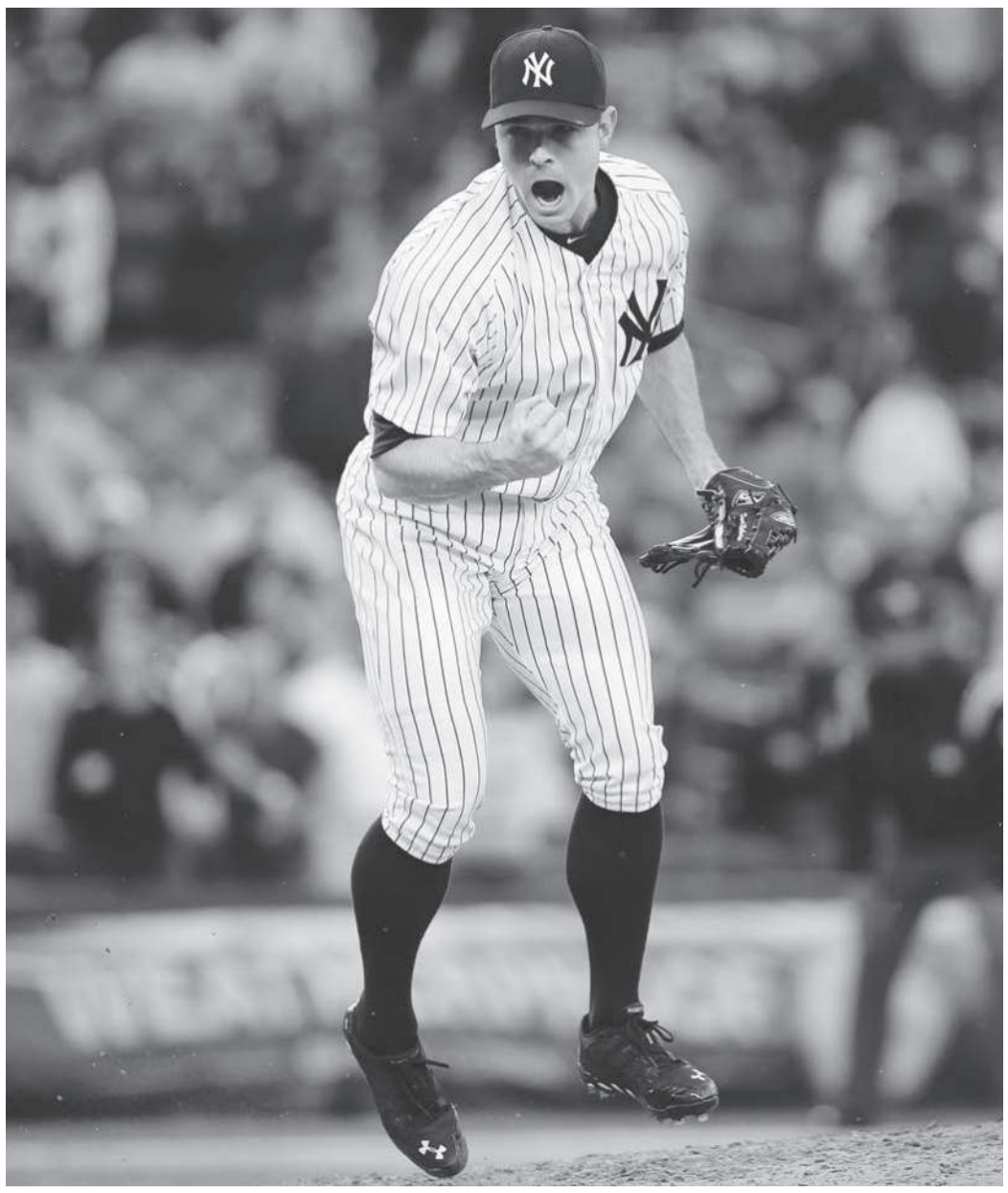
Phillies 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, pinch hitter Cody Asche hit a two-run double in Philadelphia's four-run eighth inning and the Phillies rallied after a shaky start by Cliff Lee.

The Phillies fell behind 5-0 in the first three innings as Lee struggled.

Philadelphia rallied by scoring two runs off Bronson Arroyo in the seventh and four more in the eighth against Joe Thatcher and Trevor Cahill (1-5).

Jeff Manship (1-0) allowed a hit and two walks in an inning and Jonathan Papelbon got three outs for his seventh save.



AP

New York Yankees relief pitcher David Robertson pumps his fist after striking out Los Angeles Angels batter Howie Kendrick to end the ninth inning of a baseball game at Yankee Stadium, Saturday, April 26, 2014, in New York.

No bogeys, no problems, Noh leads Zurich Classic

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—If Seung-Yul Noh can hold on to the lead in the Zurich Classic, he'll do it front of fans who can appreciate how much bigger Noh's mission is than simply winning his first PGA Tour event.

Wearing yellow and black ribbons on his hat to honor victims of the April 16 South Korean ferry accident, Noh used a string of birdies late in his round Saturday to surge two strokes ahead of Keegan Bradley atop the leaderboard.

It is Noh's first career lead through three rounds on the tour, and comes in a city where sports—particularly the success of the NFL's Saints—became an uplifting force after Hurricane Katrina.

Noh finds himself representing—and captivating—a nation mourning the more than 300 dead or missing—many of them students—from the sinking of a ferry in the waters off his home country.

"Hopefully, I'll make all the Korean people happy," Noh said. "It was very sad news for the Korean ship, so hopefully another bogey-free round tomorrow, and hopefully good news for the Koreans."

Noh is the first player to complete 54 holes at the TPC Louisiana without a bogey. He shot a 7-under 65 to reach 18-under 198. No player has completed all four rounds on the course at better than 20 under, the score Billy Horschel posted last year, when he became the sixth player in the last nine years to secure his maiden PGA Tour triumph in New Orleans.

Noh will try to continue the trend when he tees off in the same group as Bradley, who is no stranger to winning. His three career tour victories include a major in the 2011 PGA Championship.

Bradley said he doubted that he would intimidate Noh, but added, "It is definitely hard getting your first win."

Bradley began the day tied for seventh at 9 under. He pulled into a tie with Noh for first on No. 15 with his seventh birdie of the day.

Then, Noh, who was tied for third at 11 under after two rounds, made birdie putts of 13 feet on 14 and 10 feet on 15 before hitting a 112-yard approach shot to a foot for another birdie on 16, bringing him to 18 under.

Bradley also shot 65, making eight birdies. He also made one bogey on the par-3 ninth hole, when his ball landed left of the green, rolled down a bulkhead lined with cypress planks and into a water hazard from which alligators have been making routine appearances this week. It didn't faze him, though.

"I'm most proud this week of where I've been mentally on the golf course and how calm I've felt," Bradley said. "I love being in this position, a couple back going into Sunday. I'd like to be a couple in the lead, too, but I love chasing."

Robert Streb was third, three shots back after a 68. Paul Casey's 64 was the day's best round. He moved up to a tie for seventh with Charley Hoffman at 13 under.

Ben Martin, who had a three-shot lead after two rounds, shot a 73 to drop into a tie for fourth with Jeff Overton and Andrew Svoboda at 14 under. Overton shot 67, and Svoboda 70.

Noh is in his third year on the tour, but finished outside the top 125 on the money list last season, forcing him to play in Web.com Tour Finals events to retain his tour card.

"Very disappointed in the whole season last year," Noh said. "I learned from that time. ... So I'm very ready for tomorrow."

He had never before been higher on the leaderboard than tied for second through three rounds. That happened once at the 2012 AT&T National, but he shot a 2-over 73 in his final round to finish tied for fourth, his best finish in 77 previous PGA Tour starts.

Martin had raced to the lead with a course-record 10-under 62 in his first round, and his 36-hole score of 129 also was a course record. Teeing off with the final group, his trouble began on the par-5 second hole. He pushed his second shot to the right toward the crowd. As Martin's father, Jim, yelled, "Fore!" LSU student Cameron Slane turned his body defensively and felt the ball carom off the back of his head and shoulder.

The ball kicked to the right and into a cluster of long pampas grass. Martin took a drop and wound up with a bogey.

JETS

From Page 28

of the first inning. Evangelista went on to score off an error from Jets shortstop Jesse Brel to give the Braves the early lead. However, the Braves' stay at the driver's seat was short lived, as the Jets started hitting their targets in the second inning, while Camacho found his form and punished the Braves batters.

A sacrifice fly from Devin Flores drove Yamagata and tied the match at 1-all, while Brel's single brought pinch runner Greg Sablan home and gave the Jets the lead. Frankie Lizama made it a 3-1 advantage, as he scored too in the second inning off a passed ball.

The Jets never looked back from thereon, as Camacho's excellent pitching caused a lot of troubles to the Braves batters. He struck out leadoff batter Juan Quitugua in the second inning and eventually left a runner stranded at first after ending the frame with another strikeout. The Braves' second out was a fly to shortstop.

In the third inning, Evangelista managed to squeeze out a single against Camacho and the former also scored off a sacrifice fly from J.J. Lifoifoi. However, Camacho redeemed himself quickly with two more strikeouts to end the inning. The Jets pitching ace then earned three straight strikeouts each in the fourth and fifth inning with his third consecutive strikeout at the bottom of the fourth stranding Frankie Lifoifoi at third base.

Camacho recorded his final strikeout early at the bottom of the sixth after giving up a triple to leadoff batter J.J. Lifoifoi. The Braves runners went on to reach home after relief pitcher Yamagata allowed a sacrifice bunt to third batter Frankie Lifoifoi. J.J. Lifoifoi's run moved the Braves within one, 3-4, as the Jets earlier nabbed one run off Yamagata's sacrifice out at centerfield.

Clinging to a precarious lead, the Jets needed insurance at the top of the seventh and catcher Franko Nakamura gave it to his team, as his single brought K.J. Deleon Guerrero home. The Jets could have added more cushion, but their two runners were stranded at second and third, as Braves pitcher J.J. Lifoifoi got the third out off a strikeout.

Now ahead by two, all the Jets needed was to hold it on defense at the bottom of the seventh to complete the upset and hand the Braves another bridesmaid finish, as the former lost to the Fielders in the 2013 finals (4-8). The Jets did what the doctor ordered, as they booted out the Braves' first three batters with the first one going out on a 5-3 putout play and the last two flying out to first base and centerfield.

BACK

From Page 28

changed in the last three innings with Lizama playing steady from the mound and his teammates also neutralizing the Fielders. Lizama started his shift at the top of the fifth with a walk on Ian Rogolifoi, who later stole second base. However, the Fielders big hitter was stranded, as Padres catcher Daniel Smith caught a foul ball from his counterpart Quinson Blas and Lizama struck out the next two batters.

The Fielders' miseries continued in the last two innings, as they went 1-2-3 in both frames. Ton Muna returned to the dugout off a 4-3 putout play at the top of the sixth, while Vince Muna and Cody Kaipat flied out to second and leftfield, respectively. At the top of the last inning, the Fielders were called for another 4-3 putout play on leadoff batter Fermin Renguul, while A.J. Lizama struck out second batter Jose Lizama to move the Padres one out away from securing back-to-back championships. The Padres closer then got the first strike on Rogolifoi, who came up with an empty swing before letting go of two fly balls from the former. On A.J. Lizama's fourth pitch, Rogolifoi hit his target, but the shot was short and Padres second baseman Tenorio picked it up and threw to Jordan Taitano at first base to seal the title defense win for their team.

The Padres were awarded the championship trophy at the conclusion of the match, while other team and individual top performers were also recognized.

Secharmidal was named regular season and also took home the most runs award, while A.J. Lizama also bagged his second individual plum after ruling the batting race. Fielders pitcher Jose Lizama brought home three trophies after topping the ERA, strikeouts, and home run charts, while the Braves' Frankie Lieto received the most RBIs trophy. In the doubles and triples categories, the winners were the Lions' Cedric Ada and Davie Matagolai.

The Lions also took the Sportsmanship Award, while the pennant medals and trophy were given to the Braves.

HUGE

From Page 28

to-back champion Mamiko Oshima-Berger was the first female finisher in the race that started and ended at Pacific Islands Club's north parking lot with a turnaround across Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods in Chalan Kanoa. She made it to the finish line at the 19:48 mark and placed fourth overall behind men's top finisher Keith Longuski (17:19), Jesse James (17:44), and Seiya Eda (18:02).

While the race featured a good number of competitive runners, it became more of a family event rather than a contest. Father-and-son, mother-and-daughter, and husband-and-wife pairs and even entire family members joined the fun. Friends, co-workers, church members, students and their teachers, beauty pageant contestants, and even a pet dog and her owner participated in the Hafa Adai 5K.

The event started with a warm-up of Zumba steps with instructor Elitza Stoilova showing some moves to participants, who gamely followed the former's cues. Then a few minutes before the 7:30am go time, runners began lining up at the starting line with some having their faces and shirts already covered with the blue, yellow, pink, and red cornstarch. Others wore straw skirts, wigs, headdress, and cartoon character caps (Mickey Mouse and Roger Rabbit), a father and mother ran with their babies on strollers, two raced barefoot, and one was in his zories.

Runners left the starting line by throwing cornstarch in four different colors to the air and as they negotiated the 5K course, they were splashed with the same powder. They were greeted with yellow cornstarch at the water station in front of the San Antonio basketball court, pink at Hopwood Junior High School, and red at the aid station across Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods. Then just a few meters away from the PIC parking lot/finish line, volunteers splashed runners with the blue powder.

Meanwhile, the four schools with the most students joining the race were each awarded with $500 worth of sports equipment, courtesy of the Division of Youth and Service, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. The winners were Saipan Southern High School, Hopwood, and Garapan and Kagman elementary schools.

The success of last week's event was made possible through the help of the following sponsors and supporters: Bridge Capital, LLC, DFS Saipan , IP& E, PTC, Delta Airlines, MVA, DCCA, DYS, Let's Move Marianas, Triple J Motors, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, MyWave, MTEC, volunteers, Division of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Public Safety.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	10	.583	–
Baltimore	12	11	.522	1 1/2
Boston	12	13	.480	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	11	13	.458	3
Toronto	11	13	.458	3

Central Division

Detroit	12	9	.571	–
Minnesota	12	11	.522	1
Chicago	12	13	.480	2
Kansas City	11	12	.478	2
Cleveland	11	13	.458	2 1/2

West Division

Oakland	15	9	.625	–
Texas	15	9	.625	–
Los Angeles	11	12	.478	3 1/2
Seattle	9	14	.391	5 1/2
Houston	8	17	.320	7 ½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	16	7	.696	–
Washington	14	11	.560	3
New York	13	11	.542	3 1/2
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	4 1/2
Miami	11	13	.458	5 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	18	6	.750	–
St. Louis	13	12	.520	5 1/2
Cincinnati	11	13	.458	7
Pittsburgh	10	15	.400	8 1/2
Chicago	7	16	.304	10 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	14	10	.583	–
Los Angeles	14	11	.560	1/2
Colorado	13	12	.520	1 1/2
San Diego	11	14	.440	3 1/2
Arizona	8	19	.296	7 ½

ZURICH CLASSIC SCORES

AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP)–Scores Saturday in the Zurich Classic, a US PGA Tour event on the 7,425-yard, par-72 TPC Louisiana course:

THIRD ROUND

Seung-Yul Noh	65-68-65	–198
Keegan Bradley	69-66-65	–200
Robert Streb	67-66-68	–201
Jeff Overton	67-68-67	–202
Ben Martin	62-67-73	–202
Andrew Svoboda	64-68-70	–202
Paul Casey	71-68-64	–203
Charley Hoffman	68-67-68	–203
Tommy Gainey	71-66-67	–204
Tim Wilkinson	70-70-65	–205
Danny Lee	71-69-65	–205
Bud Cauley	71-68-66	–205
Retief Goosen	72-65-68	–205
J.B. Holmes	71-65- 69	–205
Peter Hanson	65-69-71	–205
Brooks Koepka	71-68-67	–206
Daniel Summerhays	72-66-68	–206
Kevin Kisner	69-68-69	–206
Erik Compton	66-68-72	–206
Joe Durant	69-71-67	–207
Freddie Jacobson	72-69-66	–207
Robert Allenby	71-68-68	–207
Justin Rose	71-67-69	–207
Mark Anderson	72-65-70	–207
Fabian Gomez	72-69-66	–207
David Duval	68-69-70	–207
Will Wilcox	68-68-71	–207
Kevin Chappell	72-67-69	–208
Bronson La'Cassie	70-69-69	–208
David Toms	73-68-67	–208
Alex Prugh	70-68-70	–208
Morgan Hoffmann	70-68-70	–208
Graham DeLaet	69-68-71	–208
Cameron Tringale	73-69-66	–208
Martin Flores	72-68-69	–209
John Senden	70-70-69	–209
Troy Matteson	72-68-69	–209
Stuart Appleby	67-72-70	–209
Vijay Singh	70-71-68	–209
Kyle Stanley	71-67-71	–209
Brendan Steele	73-67-70	–210
Briny Baird	71-69-70	–210
Troy Merritt	71-69-70	–210
Mark Calcavecchia	71-70-69	–210
D.A. Points	73-68-69	–210
Rory Sabbatini	69-72-69	–210
Charlie Wi	70-71-69	–210
Bo Van Pelt	74-63-73	–210
Robert Garrigus	73-69-68	–210
Sean O'Hair	71-69-71	–211
Sang-Moon Bae	68-72-71	–211
Andres Romero	70-71-70	–211
Charles Howell III	68-73-70	–211
David Hearn	71-71-69	–211
Lucas Glover	71-71-69	–211
Y.E. Yang	72-70-69	–211
Ricky Barnes	70-72-69	–211
Kevin Tway	70-72-69	–211
Boo Weekley	71-70-71	–212
Wes Roach	74-67-71	–212
Andrew Loupe	71-70-71	–212
J.J. Henry	68-69-75	–212
Michael Thompson	66-71-75	–212
Tag Ridings	71-70-72	–213
John Rollins	74-66-73	–213
John Merrick	69-72-72	–213
Shawn Stefani	69-72-72	–213
Doug LaBelle II	68-73-72	–213
Chad Collins	66-71-76	–213
Derek Ernst	71-71-71	–213
Jim Renner	75-67-71	–213
Padraig Harrington	70-72-71	–213
Greg Chalmers	71-71-71	–213
Max Homa	71-71-71	–213

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Runners, jr. tennis players stand out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After triathletes dominated the headlines for two straight weeks, it was the junior tennis players and runners' turn to shine last week.

Over 500 runners joined the 2014 Saipan Marathon with the islands' very own Mamiko Oshima-Berger leading the finishers list after ruling the women's ultra marathon (50K) event anew. Several other Saipan runners also made it to the podium in the 10K, half marathon, and marathon events.

In tennis, the 2014 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships had it first week of competition in the girls U10, U12, U14, and U18 singles and doubles.

Girls U10 singles' Erika Tuttle and Maria Gregoire and U14's Isabel Heras and Julia Ishikawa survived Week 1 games to advance to the finals of their respective events, while in the boys divisions, the finalists were U12's Ken Song and Tony Kim, U14's Luther Lizama and Vincent Tudela, and U18's Tommy Choi and Moris Villanueva.

Meanwhile, other notable events last week were the Girls International Youth Football Invitational Tournament held in Hong Kong and the 2014 Saipan Baseball League.

The CNMI U14 Girls National Team joined the Hong Kong tournament and drew China and the host before losing to Guam for a respectable showing in the off-island competition.

In the SBL, the Yankees (9-1) took this season's pennant after nosing out the Northern Starz, 12-11.

Still in baseball, the playoff round in the Senior, Big, and Junior League continued last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Enforcers and Comets advanced to the Junior League finals, the Braves and Jets made it to the Senior League title game, and the Padres and Fielders dueled for the Big League crown.

Over at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, the Falcons secured the pennant in the Major division, following a 9-1 victory over Laolao Bay and the lost of their closest rival Braves to the Rockies, 5-15.

In basketball, defending champion Blue Haus kept its unbeaten record in four games in the QQ caging after outclassing the Rebels, 63-60, while Toka, JP World, and Island Manpower also won their respective matches last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A runner crosses the finish line without his shoes on during last week's 2014 Saipan Marathon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A runner jumps for joy as he completes the 10K event in last week's 2014 Saipan Marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI U14 National Team players listen to instructions from their coach before their game against Guam in a tournament in Hong Kong last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Laolao Bay pitcher takes a breather while waiting for the Falcons batter to step up to the plate during their game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Jets huddle before returning to the field during their playoff game against the Red Sox in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Steven Goodwin gets ready to serve during his and Robbie Schoor's doubles game against Vincent Tudela and Tony Kim during Week 1 of the 2014 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the Kanoa Resort hard courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
JP World's Jun Estolas goes up against three High-Five defenders during the third quarter of their game in the QQ caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

NBA probing alleged recording of Clippers owner
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Sports

Pujols' 500th HR helps Angels beat Nationals, 7-2
PAGE 25

Jets stun Braves in Senior League finale

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jets relief pitcher Kenji Yamagata rushes to pick up a bunt from the Braves' Frankie Lifoifoi during the bottom of the sixth inning of their title game in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Jets completed their long trip to the Promised Land with a 5-3 upset win over the Braves in the Senior League finale in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Nathan Camacho pitched the Jets to the title win, as he struck out 12 batters and gave up only one earned run in 5.1 innings before being relieved by Kenji Yamagata. Camacho and company took this season's Senior League crown despite making it to the playoffs last. They were seeded fourth in the playoffs after finishing the regular season with a 7-5 record and had to nip the third-ranked Enforcers, 5-4, to keep their finals bid alive. The Jets then continued their uphill climb in the playoffs, pulling off an upset against the pennant champions Red Sox, 9-1, to set up a title duel with last year's finalists Braves.

Against the Braves, Camacho got off to a shaky start, allowing a double to Braves leadoff batter A.J. Evangelista at the bottom

See JETS on Page 26

Huge turnout in PIC Hafa Adai 5K

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners throw the colored cornstarch into the air as they head to the course during Saturday's PIC Hafa Adai 5K.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Club's inaugural Hafa Adai 5K was a big hit with nearly 900 runners in their "colorful" race shirts flooding the San Antonio road and portions of Chalan Kanoa last Saturday.

"We had 883 runners. I was overwhelmed by the tremendous turnout we had at the event. The participants ranged from first time 5K runners to 50K champions and everything in between. PIC would like to thank the entire community for their assistance and cooperation in letting us host this event," PIC SEA director Glenn Policare said.

Ultra marathon (50K) back-

See HUGE on Page 26

Back-to-back for Padres

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Padres players and coaches flash the No. 1 sign after beating the Fielders, 7-1, in the finals of the Big League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Padres retained the Senior League championship after downing the Fielders, 7-1, in their winner-take-all finals in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Eventual Finals MVP A.J. Lizama came in relief for Lancaster Secharmidal in the last three innings and threw a no-hitter to help the Padres clinch back-to-back division crowns. On offense, his shot in the fourth inning drove two runners home and gave the Padres more cushion against the erratic Fielders.

Ahead by only two after three hits, 3-1, Lizama batted fourth on top of the Padres' lineup at the bottom of the fourth inning with two outs and runners on second and third. He made contact with the ball, which rolled past Fielders first baseman Ian Rogolifoi, allowing runners Steven Cabrera and Secharmidal to reach home plate. The Fielders' Davin Ada then tried to recover the ball from deep rightfield and when he did he made an errant throw with the ball hitting the fence near the leftfield. Lizama capitalized on the miscue and ran home, giving the Padres their third run in that inning, while T.J. Sablan made it fourth when he also reached home off a Ray Tenorio single for a 7-1 lead.

The score remained un-

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